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NEW KOREA

3
MARCH 1958

A DELEGATION OF THE INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ON A VISIT TO KOREA

A delegation of the Indonesian Communist Party led by Sudisman, member of the political bureau of the Party's Central Committee, visited our country on December 27 last year at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Korean people warmly welcomed the delegation of the Indonesian Communist Party, the vanguard of the Indonesian people who are waging a heroic struggle for peace and national independence against colonialism.

During their stay in our country, the Indonesian guests acquainted themselves with the life of the Korean people who are struggling to consolidate peace and build socialism.

Talks were held between the delegations of the Korean Workers' Party and the Indonesian Communist Party on questions of common concern.

Photo:

Top—*Talks between the delegations of the Korean Workers' Party and the Indonesian Communist Party*

Bottom — *The Indonesian delegates at the Construction Pavilion at the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition*

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Painted by Li Kwai Dai

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Decisive Measures for Korea's Peaceful Unification

ON February 5, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a set of proposals in its statement on the country's peaceful unification to realize the cherished desire and unanimous aspiration of the 30 million Korean people.

The statement of the Government of the Republic proposed:

1) To ease tension in Korea and to solve the Korean question by peaceful means, the U.S. Army and all foreign troops including the Chinese People's Volunteers should be simultaneously withdrawn from Korea;

2) Within a definite period after the complete withdrawal of all the foreign troops from North and South Korea, all-Korea free elections should be held. These elections may be conducted under the observation of a neutral nations organization;

3) To discuss the questions pertaining to economic and cultural exchange between the North and South and to the all-Korea elections, negotiations between the North and South based on equality should be realized at an early date;

4) The armies of North and South Korea should be respectively reduced in the near future.

The Government of the D.P.R.K., expressing in the statement its belief that the realization of these measures will undoubtedly make a great contribution to the country's peaceful unification and to the maintenance of peace in Asia, called for the due response of the governments and peoples who are interested in maintaining peace in Korea and in the peaceful solution of the Korean question.

On February 7, the Chinese Government also issued a statement. Giving full support to the measures for the peaceful unification of Korea advanced by the Korean Government, the Chinese Government made it clear that it is willing to conduct negotiations with the Korean Government on the withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers. And the Chinese Government demanded that the U.S. Government and governments of its satellites also should take measures to withdraw their armed forces from the Korean territory.

The Korean people welcomed with great satisfaction the statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Recently the Government Delegation of the People's Republic of China paid a friendly visit to Korea. The joint statement of the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China was issued on February 19. The Chinese People's Volunteers agreed, in compliance with the proposal of the Government of

the People's Republic of China as was put forward in the joint statement, to complete its withdrawal from Korea by stages by the end of 1958. This is another manifestation of sincerity of the Chinese side for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

The statement of the Korean Government is a true reflection of the firm belief of the Korean people that they can decide by themselves the fate of the country under the circumstances in which the forces of peace and socialism in the world are decisively superior to the enemies, and internally the rapid development of the revolutionary democratic base in the northern part of the country has resulted in a further consolidation of unity and solidarity of the patriotic forces which are aspiring after the country's peaceful unification. And it is another manifestation of the consistent endeavour of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. for the peaceful solution of the Korean question.

No Longer Split

More than twelve years have already elapsed since the liberation of Korea from the yoke of the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists. And it is already more than four years since the signing of the Armistice Agreement. Our country, however, remains split yet, and the people are subject to every kind of misfortune and hardship caused by the artificial split of the country.

Due to the territorial division caused by the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. aggressive army, it is impossible for North and South Korea jointly to utilize effectively the rich natural resourses, tap every potentiality and display their combined wisdom and talent. Thus the symmetrical development of national culture is checked.

Due to the split, Korean people cannot send even a letter to their parents, brothers and sisters, and intimate friends who are within hailing distance, not to speak of meeting them.

The hardships imposed upon the South Korean people are beyond description.

The U.S. imperialists' colonial policy of plundering the South Korean people, which is closely linked with their war policy, has driven half of our country into bankruptcy.

The South Korean economy has further been militarised and subordinated to American capital. Last year, the number of the medium and small-scale enterprises with over 200 employees was reduced by over 1,200 as against 1955. About 80 per cent of the remaining enterprises will soon have to close down or curtail business.

Agriculture in South Korea has deteriorated to the extreme owing to the plundering policy of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites. The arable land has been reduced resulting in a sharp cut of grain output. The South Korea, a granary in the past, has turned into a famine-stricken land. The peasant households which run out of provisions and leave their farmland are increasing year after year. Today, in South Korea there are over 3.6 million unemployed, when we take into account those of semi-employed workers.

Even the South Korean press subjected to cruel persecution fails to cover up the dark reality of South Korea.

A South Korean journal "Shin Taiyang" (October 1957 issue) wrote: "South Korea has now become a land of despair. South Korea is sinking to the fathomless depth of ravine, where devilish phantoms of despair are hovering about . . . The darkness of despair is being intensified as days go by. . . the dark night of despair seems to have no dawn."

And all this is what the 12-year occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists has produced.

The Korean people under no circumstances can tolerate sufferings and misery caused by the division of the country. The 30 million compatriots wish to see the earliest unification of their fatherland that they may live together in harmony.

It is imperative for the realization of this national aspiration of the Korean people to put an end to the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. Army.

Key to Unification

The statement of the Government of the D.P.R.K. proclaimed as follows:

"The main cause of the delay of the peaceful unification of the country, of the increasing danger to peace in Korea and of the aggravation of the wretched situation in South Korea lies in the continued occupation of South Korea by the U.S. Army."

The stationing of the U.S. Army in South Korea and the maintenance of the expanded puppet army of over 700,000 impose upon the South Korean people an unbearable burden. But the Syngman Rhee clique are intensifying plunder of the people, placing on them the burden of the huge military and police expenses.

In 1957, the taxes upon the popular masses accounted for 85 per cent of the total revenue of the puppet government or 2.7 times that in 1956. Nevertheless, the financial defecit of the puppet government is on a sharp increase.

The youth in South Korea are being pressganged into the puppet army.

The atrocities of the U.S. Army committed against the South Korean people and the contempt of Yankees for them have now reached the point of endurance. The U.S. soldiers are firing at or beating to death with impunity the innocent women and children. In South Korea under the occupation of the U.S. Army, there is no place where one can sleep in peace and the people are trembling in constant unrest and terror.

Moreover, the stationing of the U.S. Army in South Korea is causing the aggravation of the tense situation in Korea, and increasing the threat to peace in the Far East. The U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique, resorting to all manner of hostile acts in violation of the important provisions of the Armistice Agreement, unlawfully reinforced the puppet Syngman Rhee army and prohibited by outrageous means the activities in South Korea of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, an international organ for supervising the implementation of the Armistice Agreement. In particular, the U.S. side openly announced on June 21 that it would unilaterally abrogate paragraph 13 d of the Armistice Agreement with the aim of converting South Korea into a U.S. atomic base. Immediately following this, the U.S. side introduced into South Korea new types of weapons including F-100 type planes, furnished the U.S. occupation army with atomic weapons.

And on January 29 this year, the U.N. Command officially announced that 280 mm. atomic guns had been brought into South Korea. The "Defence Minister" of the Syngman Rhee puppet government also confirmed this fact and blared that they were "capable of using this in case of emergency."

Prior to this, on January 25, the U.S. side conducted "atomic attack" manoeuvres, the largest in scale since the war, in the vicinity of the military demarcation line.

Trudeau, the commander-in-chief of the manoeuvres, blurted out that the aim of the manoeuvres lay in testing the "neuclear offensive capacity" of the U.S. army and the Syngman Rhee army and in turning the U.S. troops in South Korea into those not for defensive but for offensive.

All these provocative acts are part of the criminal acts of violating the Armistice Agreement the U.S. side consistently committed since the armistice, aiming at converting South Korea into a U.S. atomic war base.

The U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique, oblivious of historical lessons, do not desire peace in Korea, dreaming of the "unification of Korea by armed force," not by peaceful means.

The present grave situation demands more urgently than before that possibilities should be created for the Korean people to solve the question of unifying their country themselves by converting the truce in Korea into a lasting peace, making all foreign troops withdraw from Korea, reducing the numerical strength of both North and South Korean armies to the minimum and easing the tension created in Korea.

The withdrawal of all the foreign troops from Korea advanced in the statement of the Government of the D.P.R.K. is a matured issue in line with such a practical demand.

The withdrawal of foreign troops has been envisaged in the Armistice Agreement, too. Paragraph 60 of the Armistice Agreement clearly stipulates that the question pertaining to the withdrawal of foreign troops should be on the agenda of the political conference which was to be held after the truce.

The withdrawal of foreign troops can no longer be delayed. As pointed out clearly in the statement of the Government of the D.P.R.K., the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. Army cannot be justified with any pretext, and the U.S. Army has no ground whatsoever for remaining in South Korea.

For the rehabilitation of the national economy in South Korea, for the release of the South Korean people from the mire of misery and for the settlement of the Korean question on the basis of free will of the Korean people, the U.S. Army, the strangler of freedom and democracy and hangman of the people, must withdraw from Korea.

Unification by Koreans Themselves

The unification of Korea should be achieved through all-Korea free elections with the guarantee of democratic rights and free ex-

pression of the will of the entire people of North and South Korea.

It is clear to all that, for this, the free activities of all the political parties and social organizations as well as of political and social figures in North and South Korea and the freedom of speech, the press, assembly and association should be legally granted everywhere in North and South Korea.

However, as long as such suppression of the activities of political parties and the freedom of speech as is being exercised in South Korea at present is allowed to continue, genuinely democratic and free elections are out of the question.

Recently the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique are intensifying their fascist oppression against the people, not tolerating even the slightest expression of the will of the people.

As pointed out in the South Korean press, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique, who regard everyone as a discontented or alien element, have taken the most heinous measures to spread a drag-net. The U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique who had worked out the so-called "Regulations of the Press," "Control on Assembly," "Registering System of Men of Culture," "Extraordinary Measures for Protecting Government Policy," etc. have included in the national assembly election law infamous regulations for suppressing freedom of the press and assembly such as "Control on the Abuse of Newspapers and Magazines," and "Prohibition of False Report," in view of the coming elections to the "National Assembly."

But the frenzied attempts of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique are driving them further deep into an irreparable critical situation. In South Korea, the mounting resistance of the broad social strata against the fascist oppression of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique is followed by ever spreading anti-American and anti-Syngman Rhee sentiments of the popular masses, while the aspiration of the South Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country is growing ever more vigorously. The negotiations between the North and South proposed in the statement of the Government of the D.P.R.K. will certainly be carried into realization, if the deliberate hindrance of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique is removed. There is no ground for not conducting negotiations between political parties, social organizations and individual personages, regardless of their ideology and political views, in order to tear down the artificial barrier between the North and South, the source of national misery of the Korean people, relieve the South Korean people from the indiscriminate predicament and achieve the peaceful unification of the country.

Premier Kim Il Sung said in his report at the December 1957 Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea:

"The political parties, social organizations and individual personages in the North and South must be provided with the opportunity of having contacts and holding negotiations between them. First of all, in South Korea, political life must be democratized and the free activities of all political parties and social organizations ensured.

"We will ensure any of the political parties, social organizations or individual personages of South Korea conditions for free activities in North Korea."

No matter how desperate the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique may become, no force can bar the road of economic and cultural contacts and negotiations between the North and South, which are a matured issue arising from actual life.

The voices of South Korean enterprisers demanding economic contacts with North Korea have already found expression in the foreign press. According to the report of a special correspondent of the "Delhi Times", South Korean foreign traders who recently arrived in Hongkong said that the demand of South Korean enterprisers for the establishment of economic relations between the North and South is gradually growing.

Together with the establishment of contacts between the North and South, the reduction of numerical strength of the North and South Korean armies is of great significance for easing the tension and deepening mutual confidence between the North and South.

The Government of the D.P.R.K. has already made efforts to consolidate peace in Korea and settle the Korean question in a peaceful way by reducing the numerical strength of its army by 80,000.

The statement of the Government of the D.P.R.K. has opened up a broad road before the entire Korean people to achieve the peaceful unification of the country. As shown above, the proposals advanced in the statement are the most fair and just proposals and acceptable to any one who has the slightest concern about the settlement of the Korean question.

These proposals are in line not only with the national interests of the Korean people, but also with the cause of maintaining peace in the world. It is quite natural, therefore, that the statement of the Government of the D.P.R.K. is evoking wide response in all countries throughout the world.

The Korean people, enjoying the support and encouragement of the peoples of the socialist countries headed by the U.S.S.R. and of the peace-loving peoples of the world, have risen up to realize the policy of unifying the country clearly indicated in the statement of the Government of the Republic.

Under the present international situation in which possibilities for the peaceful settlement of all the international issues are being created, the efforts of the Korean people and of the peoples of the countries concerned are bound to bear fruit.

Support with One Voice

THE statement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued on February 5, has evoked a wide reaction among the entire Korean people.

Being informed of the statement by the radio and the press, people from all walks of life in the Republic have come out enthusiastically in support of it, seeing their cherished desire fully reflected in it.

It is proposed in the statement that the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces and all the other foreign troops including the Chinese People's Volunteers should withdraw simultaneously from North and South Korea; the peaceful unification of the country be realized through all-Korea free elections based on the free will of the Korean people; measures should be taken to open economic and cultural exchange between the North and South; the armed forces of North and South Korea reduced to the minimum.

These proposals are fully in line with the ardent desire of the entire Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country.

All the Korean people are now resolved to wage an unswerving struggle for the earliest realization of the reasonable proposals. In the light of the serious situation created by the atomic war preparations of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the Syngman Rhee clique in South Korea, the sincere aspirations of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country is all the more of practical importance. Their burning anxiety for peaceful unification is now growing stronger than ever.

The Korean people can no longer tolerate the distresses and misfortunes they have so far been suffering at the hands of the U.S. aggressors who have occupied and lorded it over the South Korean territory for more than ten years. The continued occupation of South Korea by the U.S. aggressors has caused the intensification of tension in Korea and the delay of the unification of the country.

Under these circumstances, the Government statement, reflecting correctly the peaceful aspirations of the Korean people, has met with an enthusiastic acclamation of the people.

On February 6, the employees of the Sadong Coal-mine held a meeting in support of the Government statement. The participants in the meeting unanimously voiced a strong protest against the U.S. occupation of the southern half of their fatherland, which constitutes the greatest impediments to the peaceful unification of the country, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. aggressive forces from South Korea.

At the meeting, Choi Nam Suk, leader of the coal-cutting brigade, said that the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggressive army for ten-odd years, which is accountable for the continued national split of the Korean people and the division into two of the land, has wrought countless disasters and suffering and given rise to all sorts of tragedies for the Korean people. He went on: "I came over to the North during the war. And so, naturally, I had ample opportunities to see the true colours of the U.S. imperialists and the wretchedness brought upon

the people by Americans. Homeless children roaming about the streets, drunken American soldiers presenting indecent spectacles on the streets in broad daylight with demireps, shots and piercing cries, and so on — these were, and are today, I dare say, the street scenes in South Korea, produced by the U.S. imperialists.

"In all villages in South Korea there were numerous peasant households which had run out of provisions. In the early spring, and even before the thaw sets in, the foodless peasant families went out to the mountains and fields looking for edible grass-roots and bark of trees. When I think of my old parents and relatives, who, if not dead, are in all probability undergoing all sorts of suffering and humiliation in that living hell, it seems as if my heart will break.

"Under these circumstances, it is only natural that the peaceful unification of the country should be the most earnest aspirations of every Korean. The Government statement issued in full consideration of the situation reflected truthfully our aspirations for the peaceful unification of the country. That is why we support it enthusiastically."

Kwon Ryong Sung, whose mother was killed by the American air pirates during the war, condemned the recent provocative attempts of the U.S. imperialist war maniacs to plunge our peaceful land again into the war fire. He said: "The D.P.R.K. Government has consistently made sincere efforts to convert the Armistice into a durable peace, whereas the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique have set themselves against the establishment of peace in Korea and systematically violated the Armistice Agreement. Of late, they dared to introduce new types of weapons including rockets into the Korean territory, creating a grave threat to peace in Korea.

"But all attempts of the enemies to provoke war will never daunt the Korean people who are united as one in the cause of the peaceful unification of the country. It will never be able to hamper the onward march of the Korean people on the road to the final goal of national independence.

"Korea must be unified peacefully through talks and negotiations, not by force. With this end in view, there must be the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggressive army from South Korea without delay. Nothing can be asserted in justification of the stationing of the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces in South Korea."

Speaking at a mass rally held in Chungjin, Kim Bok Kyum, a finisher at the Chungjin Ship-yard, said: "The U.S. aggressors have recently carried out a large-scale 'atomic war manoeuvre' near the military demarcation line. This constitutes another criminal act on the part of the enemies, endangering not only peace in Korea but world peace as well."

Emphasizing that the statement of the D.P.R.K. Government mirrored accurately the unanimous demand of the Korean people, he pointed out that only when the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces are compelled out of South Korea, will the peaceful unification of the country be genuinely promoted and free elections throughout North and South Korea be made possible on the democratic principles.

Li Sung Jun, a peasant, speaking at a meeting held at the Bonghwa Agricultural Co-op, South Pyongan Province, denounced atrocious acts committed by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea. He said: "The Korean nation is one, and the master of Korea is the Korean people themselves. We can no longer remain indifferent toward the monstrosities of the U.S. imperialists who have been trampling upon the southern territory of our country for more than ten years with their blood-stained foot. Our smouldering animosity toward our sworn enemies, the U.S. imperialists, who make no scruple of committing all sorts of odious crimes — aggression, murder, looting, rape, and so forth — knows no limit.

"The stationing in our territory of the U.S. troops can be justified with no pretext. All foreign troops should withdraw from Korea in order to enable the Korean people to realize the peaceful unification of their fatherland according to their own will. To unify their country in a pattern they prefer is the lawful rights of the Korean people, which permits no interference by others. No one is entitled to infringing upon this indisputable right of the Koreans."

The Korean people, giving unanimous support to the statement of the D.P.R.K. Government, are firm and unshakable in their determination to carry into effect the proposals put forward in the statement.

Mass rallies are called in every part of the Republic — in factories, enterprises, government organs and social organizations, villages, and so forth — to discuss the ways and means of putting the proposals into reality.

In his report delivered at the Pyongyang City Celebration Meeting on February 7, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Korean People's Army, Minister of National Defence Kim Kwang Hyup said:

"The Korean people don't want war. The problem of the peaceful unification of Korea is a long since matured one, requiring the earliest solution.

"The Korean question cannot be solved by means of armed invasion as the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique are scheming for. It must be and can be solved only by peaceful means.

"No matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique may try to pile up obstacles to the just cause of the Korean nation, the Korean people have all the conditions and means for smashing the enemy's vicious attempts, preserving peace in Korea and achieving the peaceful unification of the country."

The endeavour and struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of their fatherland have now an overwhelming support of the world public.

"Under the present circumstances in which the tendency of world's politics is toward a relaxation, resembling a spring thaw brought by an east wind, and the voices of the people for world peace are becoming louder and louder, the efforts made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for peace will be sure to help promote the easing of world tension," pointed out the Peking People's Daily editorial on February 7. "There is a legend that even the Milky Way can be reached by way of the magpie bridge extended across the sky, yet friends living in North and South Korea are deprived of the possibility of communication between them, separated by a dividing line passing through the waist of the land. What an absurdity, a single nation being compelled to live in such abnormal and unreasonable state!" the editorial said.

The Government of the People's Republic of China also endorsed the peace initiative of our Government in a statement issued on February 7 in connection with the D.P.R.K. Government statement. It declared that the Chinese Government would give an all-out support to the Korean people in carrying out the proposals put forward in the D.P.R.K. Government statement.

This is vivid evidence of the great importance the Chinese people attach to peace in Korea and their consistent efforts to give assistance and support to the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country.

Balwant Gargi, an Indian playwright, who visited our country last summer, referring in his travel notes to the unanimous desire of the Korean people for peaceful unification, emphasized that it was solely due to the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and their colonial enslavement policy that Korea had not yet been unified and remained divided even ten-odd years after liberation. He described South Korea as a "ravaged land guarded by the U.S. troops."

He pointed out that the U.S. imperialists were not only an enemy of the Korean people but also an enemy of peace in Asia.

Referring to the military demarcation line, the artificial dividing line, he wrote: "We drive toward the frontier. But it is not a border line between two different nations but a line dividing a single nation, which has crippled the land of Korea with terrible gunfires. On both sides, North and South Korea, the same songs were sung by the fishermen and farmers. The same lullabies were crooned by mothers. They have the same customs, manners, dress and habits, and the same language. How long can the enemy keep the two halves divided?"

Had it not been for the obstructive machinations of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique, the Korean people would have now long been enjoying a happy life as a united nation.

The Korean people can no longer put up with the present situation when their country is disunited owing to the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists. The Korean people claim that all foreign troops should withdraw from the territory of Korea and the peaceful unification of the country should be achieved by their own hands.

Today, the indignant cries of "Yanks, go home!" are heard in every part of the Republic. Every Korean who has a grain of the national conscience is coming out in support of the historic statement of the D.P.R.K. Government. They are determined as one to fight for the peaceful unification of the fatherland. Their righteous struggle is bound to win.

Results and Prospects

ON January 14, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea released information on the summing up of the work in the rural economy on the implementation of the decisions of the December Plenum (1956) of the Central Committee of the Party and the tasks for 1958. And a few days later, on January 18, the Central Statistical Board under the State Planning Commission of the D.P.R.K. issued an announcement on the fulfilment of the 1957 plan for the development of the national economy in the D.P.R.K.

Last year the working people of our country, in support of the correct economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, overcame every hardship and difficulty and scored splendid achievements in their creative endeavour.

The tasks for 1957, the first year of the First Five-Year Plan which is of great significance for the D.P.R.K. and our people, were successfully carried out. This is another demonstration of the political and moral unity and the indestructible might of the Korean people who are closely united around the Party and the Government.

The Korean people proudly look back on the past year as they sum up their achievements. Not content with the successes they attained, the Korean people are firmly determined to overfulfil the tasks for 1958.

The Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea set forth the tasks of further promoting socialist construction in the northern part of the country and further improving the life of the people. To do so, it is essential to lay a firm foundation for the socialist industrialization of the country, to realize the socialist collectivization of agriculture and swiftly to develop the light industry during the period of the First Five-Year Plan.

The December Plenum (1956) of the Central Committee of the Party, firmly adhering to the general line laid down by the Third Congress of the Party, outlined the basic tasks of the national economy for 1957 and called upon the entire working people to launch a nation-wide drive for maximum increased production and economization and to overfulfil, without making additional investment or with the least possible additional investment, the 1957 national economic plan which was bigger than the plan for the previous year.

For the successful implementation of the 1957 plan, the Party strengthened its organizational leadership. Members of the Presidium of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea and Party and Government leaders visited on several occasions farm and fishing villages, factories, enterprises and lumbering centres to talk with workers and management personnel, to explain to them the policy and aims of the Party Central Committee, to hear their opinions and help them overcome difficulties.

Inspired by the correct policy of the Party and the Government, the entire working folk of our country displayed unparalleled creative energy and enthusiasm in carrying through the policy. As a result, they registered tremendous achievements in their endeavour to overfulfil state assignments.

Industry

Gross output in value in state and cooperative industries in 1957 was 44 per cent higher than in 1956. In 1957, the output of power was 16 per cent greater than in the pre-war year 1949; fuel 3 per cent; and chemical industry 60 per cent.

Consequently, the proportion between industry and agriculture in the total output of the national economy this year is expected to be 65 to 35. This is evidence of the unprecedentedly rapid growth of our heavy industry, the powerful foundation of socialist economy, and other industries.

We have created a machine-building industry — the heart of heavy industry — which is furnished with up-to-date technology. Metallurgical, fuel and power generating centres have been created.

Along with the rapid rehabilitation and progress of heavy industry, last year, the quality of a number of industrial products was raised, technical reform took place, and labour productivity in industry increased by 24 per cent over 1956.

Last year, rise of labour productivity and economization of raw materials, supplies, fuel, and power consumption per unit of produce made it possible to reduce the cost of production in industry by 11 per cent compared with the average cost in 1956. Reduction in production costs in industry last year brought to the state a profit of more than 11 billion won.

These achievements prove that the Workers' Party of Korea has embodied in daily life Marxist-Leninist theory on extended reproduction.

Big successes were also scored in the fishing industry.

With the steady development of deep-sea fishing and active operation of medium and small fishing, the fish catch plan for 1957 was overfulfilled. Total catch in value last year was 29 per cent greater than in the pre-war year 1949.

In 1957, turnround of freight cars topped the plan for the year by 19 per cent; haulage of goods by railway exceeded the plan by 17 per cent; turnround of automobiles surpassed the plan by 21 per cent; haulage of goods by automobiles topped the plan by 29 per cent; and turnround of cargo ships in river and marine transport exceeded the plan by 25 per cent.

In the field of communications a steady progress has been made, and communication facilities rendered the population better service.

Large scale capital construction also proceeded apace in 1957. Total state investment in capital construction in all fields of the national economy amounted to 27.1 billion won, which shows an increase of 9 per cent over 1956.

Agriculture

The year of 1957 witnessed an unprecedented upsurge in our country's agriculture.

Summing up the results of the meetings of agricultural co-operative activists held in every province, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea noted with satisfaction that 1957 was a year of decisive victory in socialist transformation of the countryside and a year of sweeping upsurge in agricultural production.

The correct agricultural policy of the Party and the Government for further increasing grain output and, at the same time, developing stock breeding, cultivation of industrial crops and fruit growing, and for transforming agriculture along socialist lines inspired the entire peasants to display patriotic zeal.

In this way, there was a great production upsurge last year in every branch of agriculture, and an epoch-making success was scored in completing in the main agricultural cooperativization, which means a great revolutionary change in this field.

During the farming period last year, there were 15,893 agricultural co-operatives embracing 86 per cent of the entire peasant households in them. But, by the end of the year, the number of co-ops increased to 16,032, and 95.6 per cent of the entire peasant households were in co-operatives.

Thanks to the positive measures of the Party and the Government for the development of agriculture, and the devoted labour endeavour of the co-op members, the material and technical foundation of agriculture has been further consolidated.

State and private irrigation projects, river dykes and shelter belt planting were undertaken on a large scale last year, with the result that another 24,000 hectares of land were brought under irrigation.

Adhering to the principles of right crop on right soil and timely sowing our peasants worked hard to introduce on a broad scale advanced farming technique, with the result that agricultural production made rapid growth.

In rice growing, advanced farming methods were applied to the field accounting for 57 per cent of the total paddy fields, of which cold bed seedling transplanting comprised 10.7 per cent. As a result, technical reform was effected in rice cultivation.

In the cultivation of dry field crops, such farming methods as between-row planting, mixed sowing and two-crop farming were widely introduced to raise utility rate of land by 50 per cent.

Mechanization of field work was further stepped up. Machine-hire stations rendered help to co-ops and individual peasants in the field work. Tilling done by machines totalled 850,000 hectares or 75 per cent more than in 1956.

In 1957, peasants were supplied 298,000 tons of chemical fertilizer, 80,000 tons more than in the previous year, while 13 per cent more compost was used than in the previous year.

Last year, there were natural calamities — a 90-day severe drought, and in some districts, flood, frost and hail. But our peasants, enjoying positive guidance and help of the Party and the Government, successfully overcame natural calamities and harvested high yields.

The per-hectare yield of grain in 1957 was 7 per cent higher than in the previous year; rice, 3 per cent; and maize, 19 per cent. Especially, the per-hectare yield of rice from cold-bed seedlings was 1-2.5 tons higher than the yield from ordinary seedlings. The per-hectare yield of industrial crops and vegetables, too, increased markedly.

Total grain output in 1957 was 3.2 million tons, which means 330,000 tons more than in 1956, the peak harvest year in our country, or 11.4 per cent higher. And it also means 32 per cent increase over the pre-liberation year of 1944. Output of potatoes was 1.2 million tons, and vegetables, 1.25 millions tons, and both exceeded by far the output of the previous year.

Last year, signal achievements were also scored in fruit growing and sericulture. Total output of fruits was 111,000 tons which means 2.7 times as great as in 1956.

In response to the call of the Party to extend the area of orchards to 100,000 hectares during the period of the current First Five-Year Plan, our peasants already reclaimed 40,000 hectares for orchards last year, and growing of saplings for the reclaimed orchards is successfully going on.

Last year mulberry groves were expanded by 6,500 hectares and 57 million mulberry trees were planted.

Output of tussur worm per sheet increased by 22 per cent above the previous year 1956, and indoor silk-worm cocoons, by 9 per cent. Total output of cocoons in 1957 was 40 per-cent greater than in 1956.

Last year saw a big increase in the number of cattle. Korean cows increased by 17 per cent over 1956; and hogs, by 89 per cent.

Output of animal products too made a sharp increase last year: milk, 2.7 times the 1956 output; meat, by 67 per cent over 1956; and wool, by 9 per cent.

With the socialist transformation of agriculture and a sharp increase in production last year, it was possible to consolidate further the economic foundation of co-operatives, and, consequently, new conditions for building a cultural countryside have been provided.

Last year, our agricultural co-operatives built many production establishments and cultural and welfare facilities.

In 1957 reserve grain of each peasant household increased by 85 per cent above 1956, and reserve funds, by 51 per cent.

All the achievements gained in the socialist transformation of agriculture signify a splendid victory for the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Steady Improvement in Life

With the growth in industrial and agricultural production and the increase of the incomes of people, the trading net-work has been expanded markedly.

In 1957, there were 2,769 state and co-operative trading shops more than in the previous year, of which 706 were local state trade and 1,864, consumers' co-operative.

Last year retail sale by state and co-operative trade was 10 per cent higher than was planned.

The year 1957 saw the further strengthening of our economic relations with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the other socialist countries and expansion of economic interflow with capitalist countries. Total value of foreign trade in 1957 was 54 per cent over the previous year.

A marked increase in industrial and agricultural production last year has made it possible rapidly to improve the life of the people.

The steady improvement of the life of people — this is the supreme principle governing all activities of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K.

The Party and Government have reduced on five occasions since the war prices of popular consumer goods in state and co-operative trade. There was a sharp increase of the wages of factory and office workers by additional wages, year-end bonuses, and, especially, an average of 35 per cent rise since November 1956. Monetary wages of factory and office workers in 1956 were 58 per cent greater than in 1953.

National incomes continue to increase substantially, and state finance has become further secure. National incomes in 1957 were 37 per cent higher than in the previous year.

Incomes of working people have also further increased, while accumulation for socialist extended reproduction has grown.

Last year, the state built for factory and office workers 1,540,000 square metres of dwelling houses, or 45 per cent more houses than in 1956, while agricultural co-operatives built with their own funds 30,000 houses.

Monetary wages of factory and office workers increased by 43 per cent over 1956, and their real wages too increased.

On the basis of the big success achieved in the development of the national economy last year, the Party and the Government decided to raise an average of 10 per cent of the basic monetary wages of workers, technicians and office employees, and the wage rise was put into effect from January 1st this year.

The swift development in agricultural production has led to the substantial increase of peasants' incomes.

In 1957, each co-op household received as its share 8 per cent more grain than in the previous year; potatoes, 22 per cent; cash, 44 per cent.

Achievements scored in the fields of education, culture and public health are considerable.

In 1957, the number of students graduated from higher educational institutions increased by 38 per cent over the previous year, and the graduates of secondary technical schools increased 2.3 times. Preparations for compulsory education of junior middle school are proceeding successfully. 92 per cent of pupils who finished primary school course has moved up to schools of higher level.

Theatres and cinema houses increased in number, while film production in 1957 was 19 per cent above the previous year.

Considerable increase was made also in the number of libraries, and the descriptions and circulation of newspapers and text-books.

Hospital, clinics and beds have increased in number.

Establishments for mothers and children have been better equipped and their number has increased.

Vast Programme

The above-mentioned are the achievements scored by the working people of our country. And thanks to their strenuous endeavour firm foundations for the successful carrying out of the First Five-Year Plan have been laid. Now our national economy is on the upgrade.

Today the working people are fully determined to carry out successfully the great economic tasks for 1958 in conformity with the correct economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

According to this year's plan, gross industrial output is expected to exceed last year's output by 22.1 per cent, and the total grain output will top last year's harvest by 1.8 per cent.

At the meetings of factories and enterprises in various districts called to sum up the results of the implementation of the decisions of the December Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, all attendants expressed their firm resolve to carry through their new assignments for the current year.

Employees of the Hwanghai Iron Works pledged themselves to enlist reserves in turning out 25,000 tons of ingot, 7,500 tons of large size structural steel, rolled steel and sheet steel more than the production assignments for the year; they will overfulfil this year's plan by 16 per cent compared with the previous year, thereby raising production level of this year by 65 per cent over 1957. They also pledged to save 775 man days every day, to economize electric power, coal and materials so as to reduce production and construction costs and thereby economize upwards of 60 million won in addition to the state assignment for economization.

At the meetings of agricultural co-operative activists held in every province to review last year's farming, the attendants expressed their resolve to harvest over 3,950,000 tons of grain.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, giving its positive support to the resolve of the peasants to increase production, set before the Party organizations of all levels, government bodies and agricultural co-operatives the tasks of enlisting every possibility and reserve necessary for increased production so as to overfulfil their plan.

Inspired by the Information released by the Central Committee of the Party peasants of our country are now engaged heart and soul in the preparations for the farming of this year.

Such patriotic fervour of our working people is evidence of how enthusiastically they are working to explore reserves for increased production and economization and how self-sacrificingly they are striving to overfulfil the stupendous plan for the year.

Creative enthusiasm and positive attitude of our working people will ensure successful implementation of this year's plan.

Good-will Missions from Indonesia and France

ON THE invitation of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea, a delegation of the Indonesian Communist Party came to Korea on a friendly visit at the close of last year, followed by a delegation of the French Communist Party which paid a goodwill visit to our country at the beginning of this year.

These two goodwill visits contributed greatly to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Communist Parties of these countries, as well as between the Korean people and the Indonesian and French peoples.

During their stay in Korea the delegations visited many places and witnessed the brilliant successes achieved by the Korean people in their socialist construction under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea. The delegations were warmly received everywhere by the Korean people.

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The delegation of the Indonesian Communist Party was led by Sudisman, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Indonesian Communist Party, consisting of Utarjo, candidate member of the C.C., and A. R. Nungtjik, member of the Communist Group in the Parliament of the Indonesian Republic.

The delegation of the French Communist Party was led by Jeannette Vermeersch, member of the Political Bureau of the Party's Central Committee, consisting of J. Berlioz, member of the Central Committee and Editor-in-chief of the monthly "New Democracy," an organ of the Party, and Camille Vallin, member of the Financial Control Commission of the Party.

Pyongyang City organized mass welcome rallies in honour of the Indonesian guests on December 28 last year, and in honour of the French guests on January 27.

At the rallies, Pak Jung Ai, Vice-Chairman of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea, spoke in warm welcome of the honoured guests.

During their stay in Korea, the delegations of the Indonesian Communist Party and the French Communist Party were received respectively by Kim Il Sung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

At the talks conducted on December 30, 1957 between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Indonesian Communist Party, opinions were exchanged on important questions of common interest, and complete agreement was reached.

At the talks in Pyongyang on January 31 between delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the French Communist Party, opinions were exchanged on important questions relating to the present international situation, on questions arising in the international labour movement and on the strengthening and development of friendly cooperation and ties between the two Parties, and complete agreement was reached.

On January 31, a banquet was given in honour of the French Communist Party delegation by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

At the banquet Comrade Kim Il Sung spoke as follows:

"Your goodwill visit to our country and the joint communique signed by us will contribute greatly to the strengthening of friendship and solidarity between our Parties and peoples and to the strengthening of the unity in the international labour movement.

"The solidarity and friendship between our two Parties based on the lofty ideas of proletarian internationalism, together with the prosperity and development of the socialist camp and the international communist movement, will be further strengthened through our common struggle for peace and socialism."

The Korean people, welcoming with great satisfaction the communique signed by the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Indonesian Communist Party and the communique signed by the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the French Communist Party which visited our country sometime later, believe that they are of tremendous significance for developing the cooperation between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Indonesian Communist Party and the cooperation between the Workers' Party of Korea and the French Communist Party as well as for promoting friendship between the peoples of these countries.

My Aspiration

OH KI YUNG

Editor-in-chief of the Fatherland Front

"From the Pacific to the Elbe" — this is an expression that originated following World War II. Now it is on the lips of every one — a symbol of the great community of the world socialist camp.

Geographically speaking, from my home in Korea on the Pacific Coast to the Elbe is a long distance, but to me it seems very short.

I receive more than one letter a month from my daughter studying in Germany. She writes me in detail about her study in the university and her daily life — she had an examination on a certain subject and mark was so and so; she had been selected as a hand-ball champion and had played a match; she was reading such and such literary works and a certain cinema deeply moved her; and so on. She also tells me about her daily contact with her German friends, their genuine friendship, her comfortable life at the dormitory and about her health.

Through such letters and sometimes photographs I learn everything about her and feel as if she is right beside me. I know how tall she is and how much she weighs.

The distance between the Pacific Coast and the Elbe River is great indeed. Nevertheless, the father at one extreme and the daughter at the other are breathing and thinking together in the new era, under the care of new states.

After I devour my daughter's letter telling about her hope-filled future and her happiness of being born in the new age, I feel young again and am intoxicated with joy.

But behind this great joy lurks a heart-rending pang. I have one more daughter who may now be wandering about the streets in South Korea. Usually I do not air my misfortune, for I have so many friends who left in the South their aged parents and beloved wives and children with none to care for them, and are gritting their teeth and enduring their troubles.

But, in spite of everything the love of a father for his daughter is not so easy to control. The pang of deep regret grips my heart when I think of my daughter in South Korea struggling all alone without anyone to depend upon and with no means of livelihood, while the other daughter in Germany is on top of the world.

A letter from Germany said:

"We can write people in West Germany and we can travel back and forth between the East and West. Why on earth do the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites refuse such things? Whenever I think of my sister, I hate the American hangmen who cut our country into two parts."

This is not only the feeling of my daughter in Germany, but of myself and my daughter whose whereabout is unknown.

This misfortune is by no means fortuitous nor is it confined to my family alone. Thousands upon thousands of families in such predicament are condemning with burning hatred the originator of this national tragedy.

Today when we speak of Korea, we have to distinguish between North Korea and South Korea. However, South Korea is not at the South Pole. It is an inseparable part of our country. In actuality, Pyongyang and Seoul are separated by a distance of only 300 kilometres.

The advanced Soviet science that brought the space tour on the order of the day has created the possibility of flying to every nook and corner with one sweep.

Pyongyang, Peking, Moscow, Bucharest, Budapest, Prague, Warsaw and Berlin are not the capitals of far-away, unreachable countries but are brother cities accessible to each other within a few hours by plane.

Then, why are Pyongyang and Seoul, two cities of one territory, more remote from each other than the two poles?

Korea is a peninsula attached in the north to the continent, with the Yalu and Tumen rivers forming a boundary between her and our neighbour countries. And we have not

had for hundreds of years a land border line there.

Therefore, it is strange for us to see markings bearing letters in two different languages, pill-boxes, barbed wire entanglements, and sentries in two different uniforms armed with rifles and standing face to face with each other at a strained boundary.

Korea is now cut at her waist by the military demarcation line.

But, this is not a border. The Korean people will never regard this as a boundary nor can it be a border line. The Korean people are working hard to do away with this demarcation line and unify the country in a peaceful way, as soon as possible.

But there are monsters trying to convert this military demarcation line into a boundary.

Only 12 years ago when the 38th parallel line was set up, the commitment was made to the effect that it was only temporary. Yet, MacArthur's Far Eastern Command openly called it the eastern strategic line of the United States and now the American ruling circles and the U.S. press, their mouthpiece, take as a matter of course this line as an American border line.

If anyone visits the military demarcation area, he will be struck by the queer looking markings. On the north side the markings are in Korean, but on the south side, they are in English. The south side of the demarcation line is guarded by American soldiers. They stare at the north with a tense look.

They are dummies who do not know why they are standing with rifles in the center of other country 5,000 miles away from their own. Neither do they understand why the people are wrathful and indignant at the American occupationists who are pulling the strings behind. No need to waste breath over those mercenaries.

But the point is that the American imperialist aggressors, who ignited the Korean war there on June 25th eight years ago and were forced to bend their knees right at the same place three years later, are desperately attempting to straighten their bent knees.

They assert that American troops are protecting freedom in South Korea. They also boast that they gave millions of dollars of "aid" to South Korea for rehabilitation and reconstruction. In an annual report to the 12th session of the UN General Assembly the "UN Korean Unification and Rehabilitation Commission" headed by U.S. General Coulter went so far as to describe South Korea as a "highly developed democratic nation."

But strings of such flowery words cannot gloss over ugly facts.

A tree is judged by its fruit. The whole world is looking at the living hell of fear and death where blood and tears have made a river and poverty and starvation strangulated life. This is the fruit of American occupation of South Korea.

Oppositionist paper *Tonga Ilbo* said that the most horrible conditions in 4,000 years exist in South Korea today and the highest prices in 800 years are prevailing.

I do not know what the conditions 4,000 years ago and the high prices 800 years ago were like, but I now see the misery of millions of people — chronic hunger, inflation and skyrocketing prices, mass unemployment, selling of blood and of bodies, etc. Whenever I think of this, the haunting faces of my daughter and of my friends' family members pass before my mind's eye.

The plight, however, does not end here. Li Yang Ha, professor of the College of Literature and Science of the Seoul University, lamented, "We are not only poor economically, but are poor in speech, ideology, science and talented workers."

Was Korea ever before so poor as this? Our country is picturesque and abounds in various resources. Notably South Korea is known as a granary.

Are we an ignorant and uncivilized nation? No, by no means. The talented and hard-working Korean nation has made since times of old no small contributions to the treasure house of human culture.

Nevertheless, today South Korea has been converted into a sterile land not only economically but spiritually. The people there are not hungry for food alone, but for truth.

While the whole world is witnessing the brilliant development of North Korea, the South Korean people are kept in ignorance of this fact.

Beyond all doubt, today the demarcation between North and South Korea has become the "marker of an age." As we see, South Korea is still under a semi-feudal and colonial system, but North Korea is pressing forward

along the highway of socialism, one whole age ahead of the South.

The industry of our country has fundamentally eliminated the colonial lopsidedness and has entered on the road of socialist industrialization, thanks to the rehabilitation of large and medium enterprises since the armistice and to the construction of new modern mills and factories.

In the rural communities, 95.6 per cent of the peasant households has been embraced in the socialist cooperative economy. The people's living is improving at a rapid tempo. Keeping pace with all this, the cultural revolution is being accomplished. New type intellectuals have emerged from among the workers and national culture has fully blossomed. Such transformation has never been known before in our history.

Huge metal works now humming before our very eyes were a mere prospect only three years ago. The dizzy speed of whirling machines is indicative of the progress of the history of our country.

There is a Korean proverb, "Even a government cannot relieve the poor." This I heard so often from my uncle who was unwilling to loan a handful of rice and a few pennies to our poverty-stricken family when I was a boy.

This is not true. A government can drive people into pauperism or ensure them a bountiful life. Today the Korean people have realized the truth through their experiences in the two realities — paradise and hell — one in the north and the other in the south of the military demarcation line.

Satisfying the maximum demands of the people in their material and cultural life is the highest principle governing the activities of the Party and the Government in North Korea where the power is in the hands of the people. This supreme principle has united the will of the people in the spirit of love for humanity and the sense of honour for work.

A Japanese professor who visited North Korea said:

"At first sight I was struck by the change in the Korean people's looks. They were not the same looks as what I saw in the past. Their faces were beaming with pride... I realized for the first time what a powerful influence the people's sovereign power has."

Oppressed as they were in the past, the people in North Korea have now become the master of their country and created a new life and happiness. The pride of these valorous creators is great indeed.

But a certain visitor from a capitalist country asked a rather stupid question, "You say, you are happy. But you are still faced with many difficulties. How should I take it?"

I asked in turn. "What is happiness? We firmly believe that today is much better than yesterday and tomorrow than today. Is it not happiness?"

We do not say that we are very rich, of course. But we have nothing to do any longer with a social system that drags down millions of people into poverty only for a handful of riches. Our country has done away with mass pauperism. We are confidently marching ahead towards the future when the entire people will enjoy a rich material and cultural life which even American billionairs may well envy.

Needless to say that the life of the whole of the Korean people would have been much better if our country had not been divided artificially, and if the talent and labour of all the people of North and South Korea were integrated and the resources of South Korea used for the Korean people themselves.

The desire to share all the results attained today in the North with the people in the South is by no means confined to the North Korean people. Longing for liberation from their misfortune and colonial slavery, the South Korean people also desire this. They look with envious eyes toward the North, wishing to enjoy the happiness of the North Korean people as the master of the country and creator of a new life. Their earnest desire comes from their vital interest in life.

Precisely for this reason, the U.S. imperialists are opposed to this desire of the people. They know there are no slave owners if there are no slaves. They are not so dense as not to realize the clear fact that the collapse of colonial system will bring the ruin of imperialism.

This is why the imperialists attempted to deprive the Korean people of their national independence by armed force.

There was a time when they could do such thing. But the Korean people heroically proved that that day was long past.

If the U.S. imperialists had any sense, they would have learned a due lesson from their defeat in the Korean war. But they have lost all reason and gone raving mad. Preparing

for a new war, they are now trying to make South Korea an atomic base. Paragraph 13-d of the Korean Armistice Agreement was scrapped unilaterally by the United States. New type weapons have been introduced into South Korea from America. It was made public that the U.S. Army stationed in South Korea has been equipped with atomic weapons.

The Syngman Rhee puppet army has been reinforced more than seven times since the war and is now receiving atomic training. And they say all this is necessary for the "security of the United States."

Is it true that American troops are in South Korea for "defence"? Are those American military bases in the territory of scores of other countries also necessary for "defence"? Who is threatening America, anyway? Who gave the political, moral and international right to such "defence"? The Korean people have never touched an inch of the land of the United States of America, much less provoked a war in America.

Their aim is clear as daylight.

These stranglers of freedom and enemy of peace are scheming to trample upon the freedom of the Korean people and, furthermore, to enslave the Asian people. Not caring a fig for the bloodshed and disaster of others, they pursue a war policy and brandish atomic weapons simply for their own selfish aim.

When I watch my baby toddling about and showing off, my thoughts turn to his future. He has every possibility of realizing his hopes in life.

Needless to say, this bright prospect opened by the Party and the Government is not only for my child. All the children of our country are growing up happily. This happiness will be for children of South Korea, too, when the country is unified. Our enemy, however, is trying to slaughter these children. If he cannot mould the future of these children into colonial slavery, then he will blow them up to pieces.

No one can tolerate such thing. I will never let the enemy touch my son.

Peace and freedom—they are as necessary as air and water to my child. No matter how vicious the enemy is, I will fight to the bitter end.

At present the Korean people are waging a nation-wide signature campaign against the use of nuclear weapons and for peace, in opposition to the occupation of South Korea by the American imperialists and for the sake of the peaceful unification of the country.

I also signed my insignificant name, expressing the sincere aspiration of a Korean citizen who ardently desires peace. And my friends and neighbours, too, are signing their names to demonstrate their aspiration after peace.

The creator of history is the people. Yes, our aspiration and might are stronger than our enemy's nuclear weapons. We will certainly prove it by realizing the peaceful unification of our fatherland.

Our Agriculture; Yesterday and Today

SUH HONG LIN

UNTIL liberation Korea was a colonial, semi-feudal, backward agrarian country under the Japanese imperialists' rule.

And in agriculture, the peasants which comprised an absolute majority of the population were exploited by a small number of landlords under the feudal system of land ownership. The peasant masses, most of whom were tenant farmers, suffered at the hands of landlords as semi-serfs fettered with the feudalistic high farm rents and forced labour.

More than 60 per cent of the 4,500,000 hectares of land under plough was owned by about 100,000 landlords — 3.3 per cent of the entire peasant households — while 80 per cent of the entire 2,400,000 peasant households were tenant farmers with little or no land.

In the northern part of the country alone, only a handful of landlords, equivalent to 6.8 per cent of the entire peasant households, owned 58.8 per cent of the whole arable land, while about 80 per cent of the entire households were tenants in virtual serfdom.

Moreover, the Japanese imperialists made use of the feudal system of land ownership for their plundering purpose from the first day of their invasion.

Under the pretext of the so-called "Land Survey" they plundered at will the most fertile lands in Korea by every violent and fraudulent means. They justified by laws the feudal system of land ownership and exploitation, enjoying the absolute support and help of the native landlords and comprador capitalists. Farm land was made into a commodity for sale, speculation, mortgage and so forth. Thus landlords derived maximum profits from land.

The feudal landownership, on the one hand, ensured the Japanese imperialists the right to forcibly collect grain from the peasants at a price far below the cost and a monopoly of industrial raw materials under the pretext of "joint sales" and, on the other hand, it provided the economic foundation of securing labour power for industry at low colonial wages and usurping a high rate of interest. And politically it enabled them to consolidate their colonial domination over the Korean people with the native landlords as the faithful servants.

Moreover, the Japanese imperialists exploited the Korean peasants by means of heavy taxes and levies, forced labour, and conscription. And through the Japanese financial network such as their Industrial Bank, Financial Associations and their commercial capital, together with usury by the landlords, the peasants came to be slaves to debt, sinking deeper into the mire of poverty.

Due to the feudal and semi-feudal forms of exploitation, a large portion of farm produce necessary for their livelihood was taken away, not to speak of the surplus, resulting in a great handicap to agricultural development.

The feudal system of land-ownership in Korea under the Japanese imperialists' rule was one of the most decisive factors in bringing about a complete stagnation of agricultural productive forces, chronic poverty, non-rights and illiteracy among the peasant masses.

As for the farm implements, each farm-household owned on an average less than two of the most backward farm implements. Consequently, large numbers of the toiling peasant masses, the fundamental productive forces in agriculture, left farm lands every spring.

Farm Implements (1940)

Items	Total number	Average number per peasant household
Ploughshare	885,498	0.29
Homi (short-handle hoe)	5,485,712	1.81
Sickle	4,483,760	1.48
Karai (a shovel)	476,728	0.15

Foodless Farm Households (1930)

Districts	Independent Farmers		Semi-tenant Farmers		Tenant Farmers		Total	
	House-holds	Per cent	House-holds	Per cent	House-holds	Per cent	House-holds	Per cent
7 Provinces in South Korea	50,000	22.4	220,000	40.0	621,000	72.8	891,000	55.5
6 Provinces in North Korea	42,000	14.5	103,000	32.8	216,000	61.3	361,000	36.0
Throughout the Country	92,000	18.4	323,000	37.5	837,000	68.1	1,252,000	48.3

Consequently, a solution of the contradictions existing in the old agricultural production relations which were based on feudalistic landownership could not be achieved, unless a new set of land relations was established. For this, the elimination of Japanese imperialists and their vassals — the landlord class — was necessary.

The Korean peasants pursued systematically a class, national struggle under the guidance and support of the working class. Particularly, since 1930, the struggle of tenant farmers turned into uprisings throughout the country under the influence of the anti-Japanese armed struggle of the staunch communists led by Marshal Kim Il Sung.

The peasants, however, were unable to attain their goal until the August 15 Liberation despite their long continued struggle. They fought against the double and triple exploitation and oppression by the landed class and Japanese imperialists.

The liberation of Korea which the heroic Soviet Army brought to the people of Korea on August 15, 1945, and the stationing of the Soviet Army in North Korea created favourable conditions for the successful execution of the Land Reform within a month after its enactment. The working class and the farmers carried victoriously into effect the Land Reform Law which was published on March 5th, 1946, by the Provisional North Korean People's Committee, the people's power of their own.

Land confiscated from the Japanese imperialists, pro-Japanese elements, national traitors, and landlords, and land redistributed to peasants without compensation and the number of household received such redistributions are as follows:

	Hectares and number of household
Total hectares of confiscated land	1,000,325 hectares
Total hectares of redistributed land	981,390 hectares
Total farm households that received land redistribution	724,522 households

The land reform was of historical significance in Korea. It wiped out once and for all the feudal landownership of the landlord class and feudalistic exploitation. The land reform specifically prohibited by law the sale, purchase or mortgage of land, thus excluding any possibilities of exploitation.

The centuries old wish of the peasants to own land was attained. And there followed a heightened zeal of the peasants, rapid development in production and an upsurge of their political enthusiasm.

As a result, compared with 1946, in 1948 the total cultivated areas grew to 104.1 per cent, the sown areas to 121.8 per cent, the area under state-run irrigation to 125.5 per cent and supplies of chemical fertilizers to 589 per cent. With these achievements as a basis it was possible to initiate with confidence the struggle under the fighting slogan of the Workers' Party of Korea which called for "turning North Korea from a land of insufficiency of grain into a land of surplus." The grain output in 1948 reached 2,810,000 tons, surpassing the highest pre-liberation level of 1939 by 10.4 per cent.

The rapid increase in grain output was accompanied by a speedy improvement in the living standards and cultural life of the peasants. During the years 1946-1948 more than 100,000 new houses were built in the countryside and some 260,000 farm houses were in-

stalled with electricity. The number of peasants' children attending schools of all levels increased three to four times, while in the countryside illiteracy was basically eliminated. However, in the development of the rural economy there still lay some obstacles. Even after the adoption of land reform there still existed quite a few poor peasants in the mountainous, barren areas. With respect to this segment of the peasant population, Comrade Kim Il Sung in his report to the Sixth Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea on August 5th, 1953, said:

"In order to improve the life of these people, the Party and Government loaned grain and seed, cancelled tax in kind and provided them with many benefits. However, up to this date, the problem of the dwarfed peasants still awaits a solution due to the small size and infertility of land."

The small scale individual farming will not be able to supply raw materials and foodstuffs to the constantly and rapidly growing state-owned industry of large socialist scale. It is impossible for large scale state-owned industry and a small scale individual farming to exist together indefinitely.

In the period of peaceful construction prior to the outbreak of the Fatherland Liberation War, our rural economy grew to such an extent that it could basically satisfy the growing demands of cities and industries for raw materials and foodstuffs. However, mention should be made of certain contradictions that began to appear between socialist industry and individual farm economy. Therefore, the Workers' Party of Korea established state farms and state machine-hire stations and strengthened systematic guidance in the preparatory work of organizing agricultural cooperatives.

As shown above, despite the historical significance of the land reform, which played an important role in agricultural development and in laying the foundation for improving the living standards of rural population, for further systematic development in agriculture, it is clear, a socialist reform — cooperativization — was essential. Therefore, the Workers' Party of Korea, in order to promote agricultural cooperativization, already in 1946 established consumers' cooperatives and peasants' banks, and in February 1950 state machine-hire stations. Moreover, in December 1949, state agricultural and livestock farms were set up with a view to displaying the superiority of large scale cooperative farming to the individual farmers and playing the role of vanguard in socialist cooperativization of the nation's agriculture.

Our peaceful construction, however, was interrupted by the armed aggression of the American imperialists and their mercenaries.

To meet the war situation, it was necessary for the national economy to go through many changes during the period of the just Fatherland Liberation War.

The indiscriminate, barbarous bombings of the enemy reduced industrial facilities in cities and towns to ashes. Under these circumstances, the Workers' Party of Korea directed its main attention to the rural economy. As a result, the Korean peasants were able to keep the flow of grain and meat to the front and the rear, overcoming every difficulty and hardship.

During the war our agriculture indeed underwent many changes. For instance, we can cite the growth of the socialist sector in agriculture. During the war the state opened many more new agricultural and livestock farms as well as farm machine-hire stations. And under the guidance of the Party, fresh buds of cooperative farming began to appear in the midst of war.

In his concluding remarks at the November (1954) Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party, Comrade Kim Il Sung pointed out that the most important task confronting the nation's agriculture was to extend its social sector and carry out gradual socialist transformation of our agriculture. Without solving these important tasks no answer could be found to the question of poor peasants, who accounted for some 30 per cent of the total, and that of wealthy farmers who were, though few in number, nevertheless exploiting elements.

At the Sixth Plenum, held in August 1953, Comrade Kim Il Sung said that on an experimental basis farm cooperatives would be from 1954 organized in some parts of the nation on the principle of owning privately land and farm implements. Again in the March Plenum in 1954, he pointed out that the existing co-operatives, numbering two or three in each county, which were built on an experimental basis should be developed in every way so as to display the superiority of the agricultural cooperatives through these model ones. Moreover, he asked that more would be organized in 1955.

The post-war three-year reconstruction was crowned with victory in the cooperativization of our farm economy. After the experimental stage of 1953-1954 farming entered on the path of mass scale cooperativization in 1955.

By the end of 1953, only 1.2 per cent of the total farm households was included in co-ops, but 95.6 per cent of them had joined the cooperatives by the end of December, 1957. Such rapid growth in the nation's agricultural cooperativization played a decisive role in the speedy restoration of our rural economy.

At the First Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly held in September, 1957, Premier Kim Il Sung stated in his speech:

"The cooperativization of our rural economy played a decisive role in the speedy restoration of our agriculture. Had not the rural economy been cooperativized, the technical and economic measures taken by the state for the development of agriculture would not have been carried out effectively. Consequently, our farming could rapidly recover from the damage suffered in the war. Without agricultural cooperativization we could not have solved the contradictions existing between the socialist industry which developed at such a fast tempo with qualitative changes, and the individual farming economy which recovered at a very slow pace. Due to the correct policy of the Party and Government on agricultural cooperativization and the resolute support of the peasants the agricultural cooperativization movement gained tremendous momentum. Today 85.5 per cent of the total farm households belong to agricultural co-ops. The agricultural cooperativization was a great revolution in our countryside. It not only ensured a rapid restoration of the rural economy, but also provided every basic condition for bringing about a fundamental reform in farming methods, the material and cultural life of the peasants and in their consciousness. Thus our rural economy consolidated its material foundations and built an unshakable base for a yet speedier development in its productivity by reshaping the agricultural economic sectors."

There are three forms in our agricultural cooperativization.

The first one is also called the "mutual-aid team," which is the most elementary form. Here the land and farm implements are owned by the members individually, while they perform labour in a community.

The second form is the land cooperatives. The land is still privately owned by the members, but the members invest the lands in the co-op. Following the principle of a best crop for each type of soil the co-op undertakes collective management. All the work is done collectively by the members. And shares are divided according to the amount of labour (which constitutes more than 80 per cent of the total dividends) and land invested (less than 20 per cent of the total dividends).

The third and last form is the most developed one. It resembles basically the Soviet farm artels. In this form the members pool all their lands, draught animals, and farm implements to the co-op and do the work collectively. And shares are given out only by the quality and amount of work done and work days. The work days are divided into five classes. The first class is 0.5 in point while the fifth 1.5. There is a difference of 0.25 between two classes (0.5, 0.75, 1.0, 1.25, 1.5).

In our farm cooperatives, as mentioned above, there are three forms. Each form is determined by the degree of practical socialization with respect to land and farm implements and by the mode of distribution of their products.

One may ask what caused the agricultural cooperativization in Korea to make such rapid progress in a very short time, and how the third form dominates an absolute majority in the total number of farm cooperatives.

The answer is found, first and foremost, in the fact that all the agricultural policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic is scientific and correct.

Through personal experiences our farmers came to realize fully the correctness of the land reform and other measures taken by the Party. Therefore, they wholeheartedly supported the cooperativization policy.

It also should be added that the Workers' Party of Korea gave full attention to the agricultural cooperative movement. It never forced the movement but left it strictly to the voluntary principle. On the farms the Party members played the role of pioneers and core of this work.

Particular mention should be made of the "share-ox-team" and "share-work-team" movements. In olden days such teams were employed in farming in our country. However, they were revived and most effectively used during the Fatherland Liberation War due to the serious shortage of manpower, draught animals and farm implements. And these made the farmers realize the superiority and benefits of agricultural cooperation.

At the same time we cannot overlook the systematic development and consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance under the leadership of the working class, and the thorough execution of the land reform. The land confiscated under the Land Reform Law was given to the peasants without compensation according to points of labour, which resulted in a more or less same size of the land-ownership of farm households. Therefore, it meant very little when shares, it is said, vary according to the size of the piece of land. Furthermore, the sale, mortgage or renting of land was prohibited by law. Owing to the small size of land ownership, the development of individual farming was limited.

And then in our national economy the socialist sector came to occupy the leading, decisive position and in the countryside also the socialist economic elements in such forms as state farm machine-hire station, state agricultural and livestock farms, agricultural consumers' cooperatives and peasants' banks developed further enjoying wide popularity.

Lastly, it should be pointed out that with the land reform the landlord class was eradicated and by checking exploiting practice of well-to-do farmers their influence in agriculture had been greatly weakened. Moreover, the successful introduction of the advanced Soviet experiences and the favourable conditions created by the economic and technical aid rendered by the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries should be mentioned.

The agricultural cooperativization in our country was carried out along the right path, scoring decisive victories in the transformation of the rural economy.

The Workers' Party of Korea correctly evaluated the significance of cooperative in organizing the third form rapidly, but it never allowed any underevaluation of the importance of the cooperatives which were in the lower form — first or second.

In January, 1954, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in its "On the Organization of Agricultural Co-operative Economy" instructed that the scope of co-operative economy should be determined in accordance with the organizing and operation abilities and preparedness of the peasants. Local conditions should also be taken into consideration so that a co-op should be organized and developed from a lower stage to a higher. And Comrade Kim Il Sung in his speech on the further development of rural

KOREAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION SIGNED

An agreement on cultural co-operation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Republic was signed in Damascus on January 20. Han Sul Ya, Minister of Education and Culture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Shibai, Minister of Education of Syria, signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, the two countries will exchange delegations of journalists, cultural and sports organizations as well as films and books.

Han Sul Ya made a speech at the signing ceremony. He said that the present relations between the two countries would be consolidated regardless of the long distance separating the two countries, and they would cooperate more closely in the struggle against the common enemy — imperialists.

Syrian Minister of Education Shibai also spoke at the ceremony to the effect that the present agreement on cultural co-operation between the two countries was a fruit of the ardent aspirations of the two peoples for friendship between the two countries. And he added that it would contribute to consolidating the cooperation of the two countries in the struggle against their common enemy — imperialists.

In his telegram to Syrian Minister Shibai, on January 24, Yoon Sung Bok, Deputy Chairman of Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, heartily welcomed the conclusion of the agreement on Korean-Syrian cultural cooperation. The message expressed further his firm belief that the friendship between the two countries would be consolidated further through cultural exchanges. And he wished the Syrian people a further development of the national culture and prosperity.

economy delivered at the Meeting of Agricultural Cooperative Activists in South Pyongan Province, in January 1957, said that under prevailing conditions in our country 40-100 farm houses would be a suitable scope for a co-op.

For the consolidation and development of the co-ops in our country on-the-spot guidance and instruction given by the leaders of the Party play an important role. On several occasions since the December 1956 Plenum of the Workers' Party of Korea, Premier Kim Il Sung and other leaders of the Party and Government visited the countryside to give on-the-spot guidance. They personally helped the peasants in organizing the next year's farming, taking steps to combat droughts and in strengthening the co-ops organizationally and economically. And they greatly encouraged the creative zeal of the farmers. Last December many leaders went to various parts of the country to sum up the agricultural achievements made in 1957 and to give aid to make necessary preparations for the agricultural plans for the year of 1958.

Then what are the main tasks facing Korean agriculture today?

In this connection Premier Kim Il Sung in his speech before the First Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly said:

"The cardinal tasks confronting agriculture are continuously to increase grain output and raise the production of industrial crops to a definite level by completing the agricultural co-operativization and by strengthening the co-operative economy still further.

"In 1961 the grain output should go over 3.7 million tons. (Later the peasants resolved to harvest 3.95 million tons of grain—*Editor*)

"It is of weighty significance to carry on irrigation projects on an extensive scale for the development of the rural economy and undertake river and dike projects for the protection of land.

"The development of the rural economy definitely depends upon the organizational and economic consolidation of co-operatives. We can complete the agricultural co-operativization only by consolidating further the already organized co-operatives and raising their income.

"Agricultural co-operatives belong to the socialist sector of economy. Socialist economy cannot be managed without a plan.

"For the socialist transformation of agriculture, it is necessary to change not only the economic form, but also the agro-technique and the ideology of the peasants. Only through this can we complete the socialist transformation of the rural economy and further develop the co-operative economy.

"Under the condition in which a decisive victory has been won in the agricultural co-operativization, the technical reformation of the rural economy stands out as a very urgent task before us.

"Along with the technical transformation of agriculture, the socialist reformation of the ideology of the peasants should be done. The ideology of the peasants is lagging far behind their social and economic circumstances. We should further strengthen the work of class education among millions of peasants, actively go ahead with the cultural construction in the rural villages and improve the hygienic and public health work there. Thus we should eliminate all the backward tendencies in the ideology and the daily customs of the peasants, and transform them into true socialist working people with socialist ideology and high cultural attainments."

During the period of the First Five-Year Plan the Workers' Party of Korea envisages the completion of agricultural cooperativization.

And such completion of agricultural co-operativization will be achieved in the economic consolidation and development of the existing co-operatives and the remaining individual peasants will be led to cooperatives according to the degree of their preparedness and on the strict voluntary principle.

There still remains in our country a small number of peasants who have not joined co-ops. Among them are some well-to-do farmers to be found in the out-skirts of cities. Others live in such areas as mountainous regions, geographically unfavourable to form a co-op. Then there are some in the newly liberated areas, who do not know yet the benefits of cooperativization.

The prerequisite for perfecting the agricultural cooperativization is the economic consolidation of the existing cooperatives.

The cooperative members of our Republic, in alliance with the working class, put their energies into building socialist rural economy and every member is a noble builder of socialism.

A DELEGATION OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY IN KOREA

At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, a delegation of the French Communist Party which has a glorious revolutionary tradition visited our country on January 26. A mass rally was held in Pyongyang in honour of the delegation led by Jeannette Vermeersch, member of the Party's political bureau.

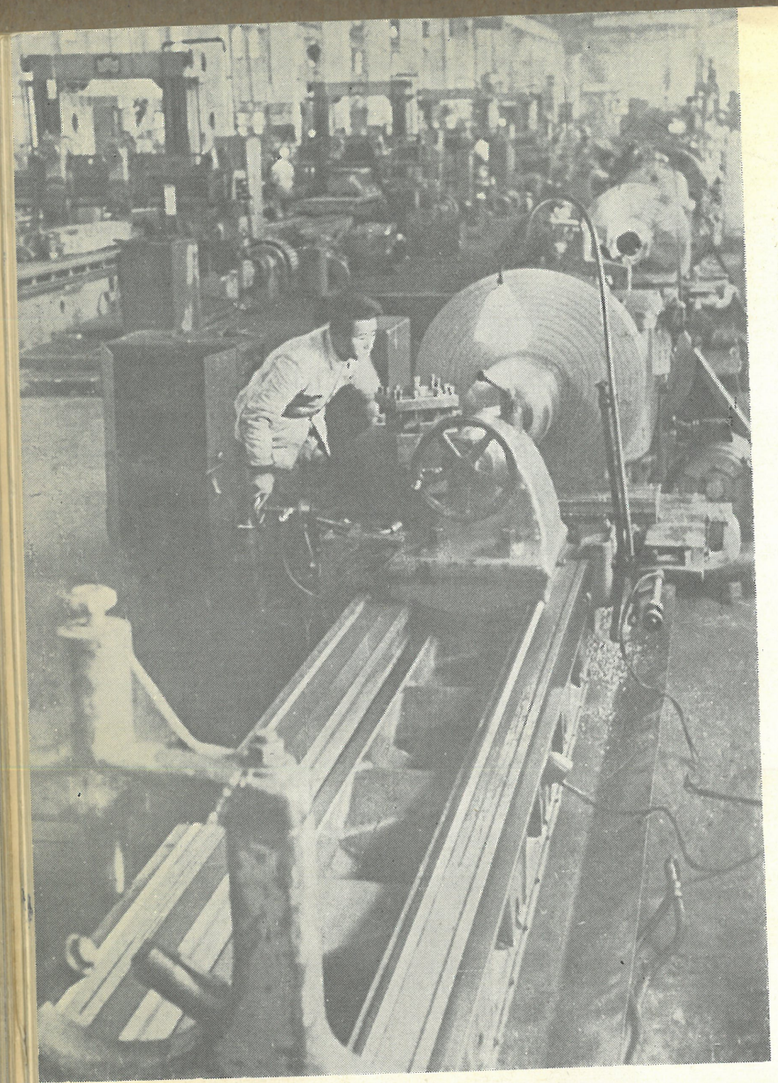
The French guests, during their sojourn in our country, visited many industrial and agricultural districts and were deeply impressed by the results attained by the Korean people in the post-war reconstruction of the national economy and socialist construction. Everywhere, they were accorded a warm welcome by our people.

Photo:
Top — *The signing of the joint communique*
Centre—*At the dye-shop of the Pyongyang Textile Mill*
Bottom — *The guests visit the Kochang Agricultural Co-op, South Pyongan Province*

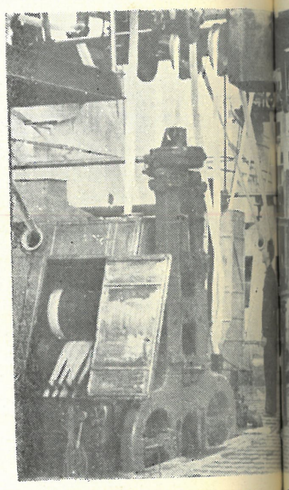
Industrial Produc
Stepped up

In support of the December Plenum (19 the Central Committee of the Workers' Par rea, our working people displayed matchle tive energy and enthusiasm in the struggle ful- filment of the national economic plan fo the first year of the First Five-Year Plan.

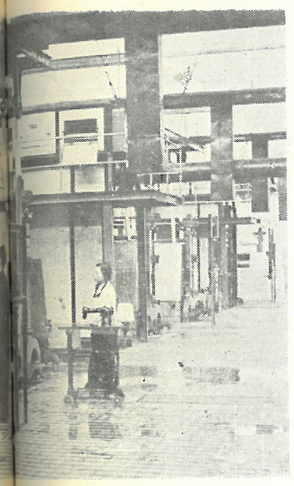
As a result, the total industrial ou the state and cooperative organizations g per cent over 1956, and many varieties of pr were added.

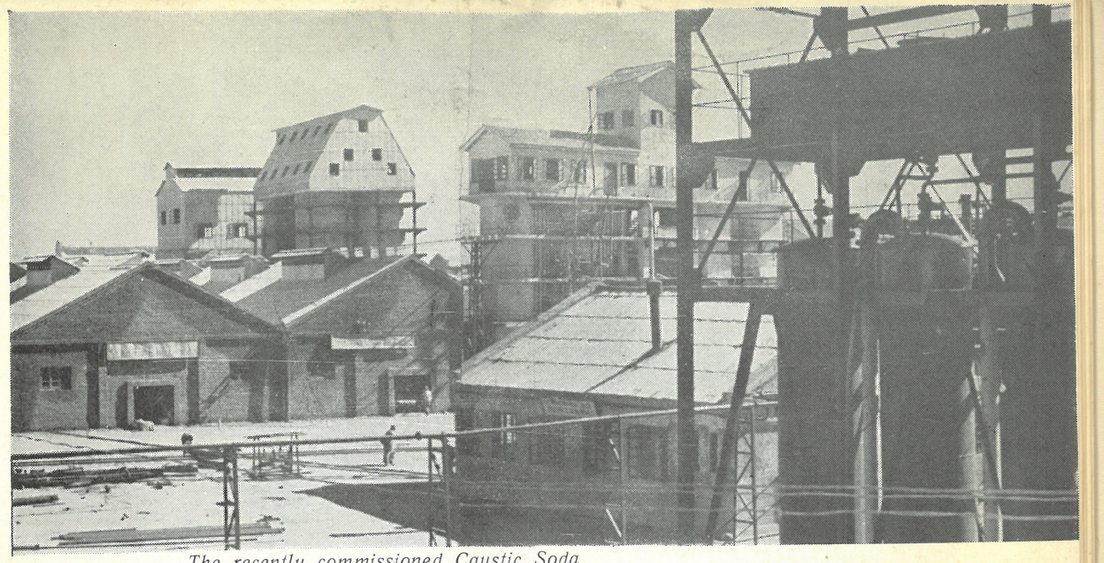


The Youth Shop of the Bookjoong Machine-building Factory



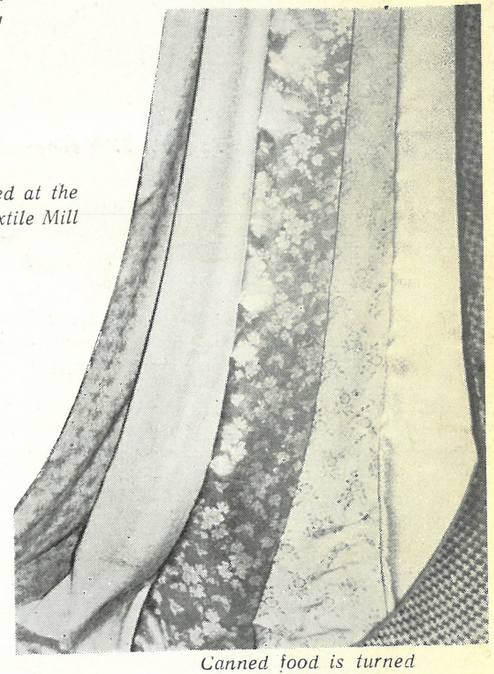
The Bleaching Shop of the Pyongyang Textile Mill



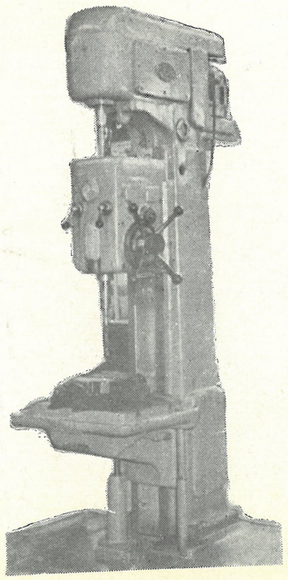


The recently commissioned Caustic Soda Shop of the Pongoong Chemical Factory

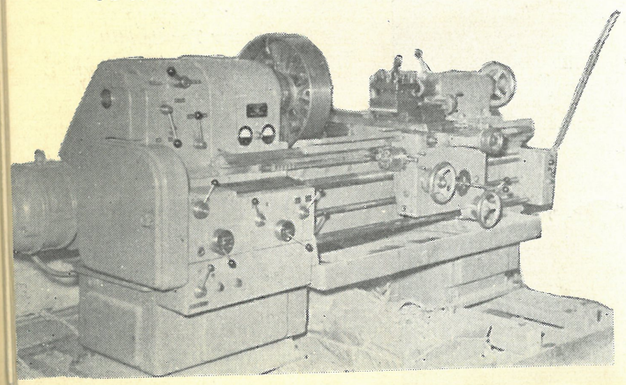
Silk fabrics produced at the Pyongyang Silk Textile Mill



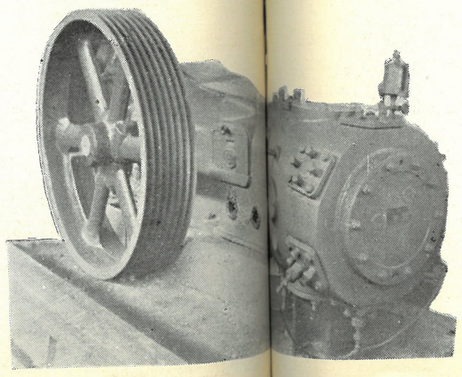
2-A-125 press



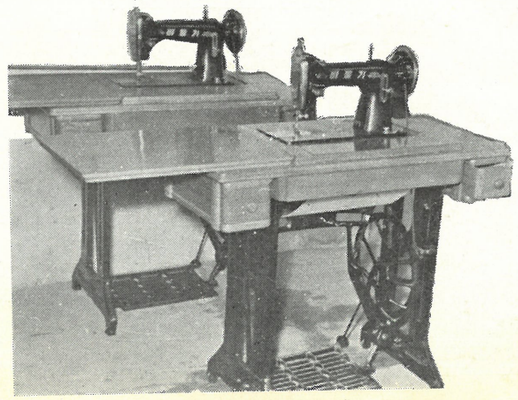
SU-50 lathe



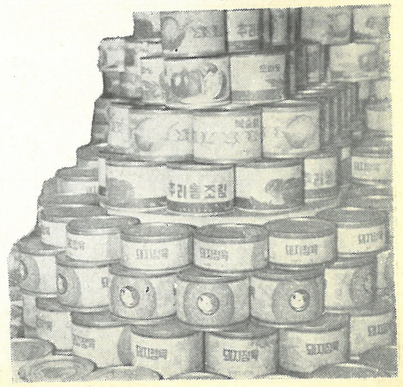
Compressor with 100 h. p.

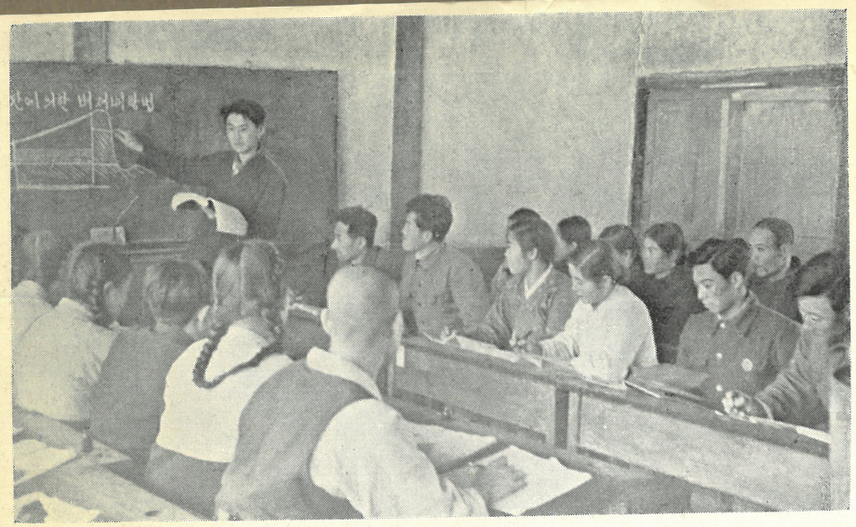


Domestic-made sewing machines with the mark of "Dove"



Canned food is turned out in a large quantity





Members of Jongpo-ri Agricultural Co-op No. 1 in Janggang County, Jagang Province, taking a lesson in advanced farming method

CULTURAL WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

In response to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea for the enhancement of the cultural standard of the peasants, the cultural and educational work for the agricultural co-op members is carried on briskly.

Co-op members at the adult school of the Ripsuk Agricultural Co-op, Moonduk County, South Pyongan Province

A mobile cinema team at the House of Culture of Jongpo-ri Agricultural Co-op No. 1, Janggang County, Jagang Province

Another Example of Easing International Tension

The repeated peace initiative taken by the Soviet Government recently has evoked a lively response in our country as it has in every part of the world.

In connection with the Soviet Government's decision to cut its armed forces by 300,000 and its proposal for a summit conference of the heads of government in Geneva within the next two or three months, many editorials and comments have appeared in the Korean papers.

The papers wrote that the Soviet peace initiative was a true translation of the proposals set forth in its messages and memoranda to the entire Nato and U.N. member nations. The Soviet proposals are in keeping with the ardent desires of the peoples of all countries to put an end to the "cold war" and arms drive, and to relieve international tension. And, moreover, they serve to strengthen further the people's determination to preserve peace.

As was shown with full clarity in the documents adopted at the Moscow Conference of Representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties and the Declaration of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference held in Cairo, the people will not tolerate another bloodshed, but are firmly determined to follow the path of peaceful co-existence.

Under the heading "New Soviet Proposals for Radical Improvements in International Situation," the *Rodong Shinmoon* in its editorial pointed out that the political leaders of every country were responsible for meeting the ardent desires of the people.

The editorial continued:

"As the Soviet peace initiative of last December, which reflected the ardent desires of the people, gain more public support, leaders of the British Government and a number of other Nato states, under public pressure, are forced to refer to the necessity for opening negotiations with the Soviet Union. It is clear to all that a summit conference is an urgent demand of the times that can no longer be neglected.

"The new Soviet proposals will accelerate the realization of the demand of the times, giving a fresh impetus to consolidating world peace. And beyond any doubt the proposals will serve to open up a new way for uniting efforts to bring about a radical change for the better in the international situation.

"The earlier such meeting is held and the broader its scale, enabling the leading statesmen of the Nato and the Warsaw Treaty Organization member nations, as well as statesmen of certain neutral countries to attend, the better it is."

We know very well that the Geneva summit conference of Four Powers held in 1955 made a great contribution to the relaxation of international tension.

However, the international atmosphere deteriorated due to the policy of "positions of strength" pursued, in violation of the Geneva Agreement, by the ruling circles of the U.S. and Western Powers.

The aggressive American ruling circles at the Nato meeting held immediately after the release of Bulganin's messages last December more openly attempted to force their atomic war policy upon their "allies." As was shown in Eisenhower's State of Union Message to the Congress, the United States is clinging to its old policy of armaments drive under the slogan of "atomic bombs-before-butter."

And they are, in order to mislead public opinion, disguising their true colour, as if they too were aspiring after the easing of international tension. But no words, however

profuse they may be, will be able to take the place of an actual undertaking to this end.

In keeping with the desire of the people the Soviet Union has set an example of good will to the Western Powers by its efforts to lessen international strain.

In connection with the decision of the Soviet Government on reducing its armed forces by another 300,000, the *Minjoo Chosun* wrote:

"The recent reduction in the Soviet Armed Forces is further proof of the sincere desire of the Soviet Union, stemming from the Lenin's policy of peace. Moreover, it provided further proof that war can be prevented and peace preserved.

"In this cut of its armed forces, the Soviet Union has decided to withdraw and demobilize part of the Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic and Hungary. And it serves greatly to meet the sincere desire of the European people for establishing an atom-free zone in Central Europe, thereby removing a source of war threat created by the Western Powers."

The Korean people, along with the peace-loving people the world over, are demanding, for the sake of peace in Asia, disarmament, prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons, immediate halt of the tests of all types of such weapons, abolishment of all foreign military bases and withdrawal of foreign troops. Also Korean people insist persistently that the Korean armistice be turned into a stable peace, withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and reduction of the North and South Korean armed forces to 100,000 each or less for the purpose of accelerating the peaceful unification of Korea.

We are convinced that the repeated measures taken by the Soviet Union to reduce its armed forces will no doubt help to create further favourable conditions for the realization of the Korean people's cherished-wish — the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

Disregarding the unanimous demands of the Korean people, the U.S. imperialists not only refuse to withdraw their troops from South Korea but are reinforcing their armed forces in violation of the Armistice Agreement. Such a policy of arms drive is patently at variance with the trend of the times.

If the U.S. is genuinely to serve peace, it must follow the example of the Soviet Union. And it must without hesitation accept the constructive proposals of the Soviet Union on calling a summit conference.

The Soviet Government's proposal to convene a summit conference of leading statesmen is being received and supported by the world public with keen interest. That being the situation, even Eisenhower could not very well put aside the idea. Saying that the proposed summit conference is "premature," he came out for a foreign ministers' conference.

Of course, it is not difficult to see through his real intentions. As world public attention is focused on the proposed conference, he intends to obstruct with the foreign ministers' conference the opening of summit talks.

Pointing out that the Soviet Union had surpassed the U.S. in the field of science and military art, and that the complete collapse of the "positions of strength" policy is inevitable, the Korean papers emphasized that the Soviet Union is consistently advocating peaceful co-existence as the only path open to the world. The way to war which the aggressive imperialist circles insist upon will only cause the ultimate collapse of the imperialists themselves.

In support of the proposals for easing international tension, the *Rodong Shinmoon* stressed: "The aggressive American circles must face realities with comprehensive understanding, not with the illusion of their strength which is already dispersed. They must derive a lesson from their past ignominious defeat. The people, of course, are well aware that they must not wait for peace but win it.

"The Korean people are confident that the convocation of a summit conference proposed by the Soviet Government will not only exert a favourable influence upon the preservation of world peace, but also upon the prospects for a peaceful solution of the Korean issue. Therefore, the Korean people are firmly determined to exert their efforts together with the entire peace-loving peoples for the realization of the Soviet proposals."

DO JUSTICE TO KOREAN DETAINEES

KIM SEUNG HYUNG

THE FATE of their fellow-countrymen in Japan has been a matter of deep concern to the entire Korean people. Therefore, the "joint statement" issued by the Japanese Government and the South Korean regime on the proposed "reciprocal exchange" of the Korean citizens illegally detained in Japan and the Japanese fishermen detained in South Korea, and the resumption of the "Japanese-ROK talks" was a great shock to the Korean people.

Nam Il, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the D.P.R.K., released a statement on January 4, 1958.

The entire Korean people fully support Foreign Minister Nam Il's statement.

As is well known, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people have continuously exerted sincere efforts for the just solution, on the humanitarian principles, of the question of the Korean citizens in Japan, in particular, that of those illegally detained in the camps.

We have repeatedly stressed that the Korean citizens detained in Japanese camps should unconditionally and immediately be released in accordance with the international law, guaranteed all the rights granted to foreign residents, ensured the opportunity of a free choice of residence and that the Korean detainees should not be used for unreasonable political purposes.

Such righteous stand and sincere efforts of the Korean people are receiving public support in Japan.

However, the Syngman Rhee clique are hatching a plot to use the Korean detainees as political pawns to reopen the so-called "Japanese-ROK talks."

As to the Korean detainees in Japan, some of them had been sent to Japan for forced labour and military service before liberation and some of them made their way to Japan from South Korea in order to escape the hard life under the anti-popular and fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique in the post-liberation era. The unfortunate people have been for long time unlawfully detained in Japanese camps and subjected to an unbearably miserable life.

Furthermore, the Syngman Rhee clique infiltrated its agents into the camps to threaten and terrorize the Korean detainees for forcible repatriation to South Korea.

However, the Koreans detained in Japanese camps, in defiance of all the persecutions by Syngman Rhee's terrorists, resolutely reject forcible repatriation to South Korea, and ardently desire to return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Numerous letters and appeals addressed to the D.P.R.K. testify most eloquently to this fact.

Only recently one of their letters enclosed resolutions adopted at a meeting held in the Omura Camp on December 16, 1957, demanding their immediate release, the right to choice of residence, and their return to the D.P.R.K. The resolution reads in part:

"Now our homeland is divided and our nation is split into north and south. We Korean detainees are subjected to humiliation in the detention camps in Japan. We demand immediate release and return to our country... In order to have our rights recognized — our rights to return to our fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — we made strong requests to the Japanese Government for a just solution of the question of the Korean citizens in Japan including the detainees, on the basis of the reasonable proposals of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and humanitarian suggestions made by the Red Cross Society of the D.P.R.K.

"And we have been organized to plead with the broad peace-loving segment of the Japanese people and the honest-minded people of the entire world.

"We will consistently continue our struggle, exerting all our energies, for final victory in our fight to return to our country."

If, despite such urgent demand of the Korean citizens detained in the Japanese camps, they are forcibly sent to South Korea under Syngman Rhee's rule where certain death would be their fate, this should not be allowed on the humanitarian principles.

It was the solemn proclamation of the International Red Cross Committee in its memorandum of December 12, 1956, that "a free choice of residence and the right to return to one's own country should be inviolable rights." The rights of the Korean citizens detained in the Japanese camps to choose residence and return to their country are inviolable in accordance with international law and humanitarianism.

Communications were addressed to the Japanese Red Cross Society and the International Red Cross Society by the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, asking them to render aid in its plan to proceed to Japan to help the Korean detainees in realizing their wish to return home. Moreover, the Korean Red Cross Society stated that it was also its wish to ensure every condition for the detainees to make a free choice of residence. And many social organizations of our country also sent letters to social organizations in Japan asking their help in the struggle of the Korean citizens detained in the Japanese camps for ensuring their rights.

The Central Committee of Korean Federation of Trade Unions sent letters to the General Council of Japanese Trade Unions and the All-Japan Industrial Trade Unions and the All-Japan Industrial Federation of Trade Unions. The Central Committee of the All-Korean Communications and Transport Trade Unions also addressed letters to the Japanese State Railway Trade Unions and the Japanese Federation of Private Railway Trade Unions, and the Central Committee of Korean Machine-building Trade Unions to the All-Japan Shipbuilding Trade Unions.

The letter of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation of Trade Unions expressed its confidence that its just demand will be satisfied by the continuous support, sympathy and assistance of the General Council of Japanese Trade Unions and of the working class of Japan who are fighting for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the consolidation of friendly relations and solidarity between the working classes of the two countries.

In our country meetings were held in support of the statement of Nam Il, Foreign Minister of the D.P.R.K., on the Korean detainees in Japan. These meetings were attended by people of all walks of life.

At these meetings, the Korean people expressed strong indignation and protest against the unscrupulous conspiracies of the American imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique who are scheming to send the Korean detainees to their death by the forcible repatriation to South Korea to gain their political ends.

Not only the Syngman Rhee puppet regime does not represent the will of the entire Korean people, but it is being completely isolated from and rejected by the Korean people as a target of the people's hatred.

The questions, therefore, that exist between Korea and Japan, particularly those concerned with the interest of the entire Korean people, such as "property claims on Japan" and "nationality of Koreans in Japan," cannot be negotiated with the South Korean puppet regime, and there is no ground for such talks.

The Korean people will never recognize any such unlawful talks that the Japanese government might hold with the South Korean puppet regime or the measures to be taken at their talks.

Korean people are fully aware that it is the American imperialists who have been pulling the strings. Forcible repatriation of the Korean detainees to South Korea in exchange for the Japanese fishermen detained in South Korea is aimed at reopening the "Japanese-Syngman Rhee talks."

The U.S. imperialists have been for a long time preparing to form another new aggressive military bloc, so-called "North-East Asian Treaty" with South Korea, Japan, Philippines, South Viet-nam and the Chang Kai-shek hordes on Taiwan as members.

For this purpose, the American aggressive circles needed to patch up relationship between Japan and South Korea. With a view to diverting the Japanese people's attention and creating favourable conditions for the speedy remilitarization of Japan, the U.S. imperialists have engineered conflicts between Japan and South Korea.

The Japanese fishermen have been detained on the charge that they violated the so-called "Syngman Rhee line." In fact, they are scape goats in the plots of the U.S. imperialists.

The Korean people, together with the Japanese people, are making effort for the promotion of mutual interests and the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The question of the Korean citizens detained in Japanese camps must be adjusted in accordance with the desires of Korean and Japanese peoples and humanitarian principles.

The Korean people firmly believe that our efforts for a reasonable solution of the question as to Korean detainees held in Japanese camps will receive positive cooperation and support of the broad masses of the Japanese people.

Press Gag in South Korea

RECENTLY the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique forced the South Korean "National Assembly" to pass a reactionary election law for the elections to the "House of Representatives." The aim of this "election law" is an unheard-of news suppression of the South Korean press.

Public opinion in South Korea has already been roused to a bitter pitch by this tyrannical move. And the South Korean journalists have risen up against the press gag.

And this resentment and indignation are showed by the entire journalists and other intellectuals in the northern part of the country.

On January 16-17, the representatives of journalists, artists, publishing, scientific and cultural workers in the northern part of the country met at the Moranbong Theatre to expose and condemn the barbarous move of the Syngman Rhee gang. They expressed deep sympathy with, and extended warm support to, their South Korean colleagues who have risen up in the struggle for the freedom of speech.

At the meeting attended by 800 representatives, Hyun Pil Woon, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists' Association, made a report. He said in his report that the aim of the "election law" fabricated by the Syngman Rheeites lay in protracting their fascist dictatorship over the South Korean people, and that the paragraph

The rostrum of a rally of journalists, held in Pyongyang in support of the South Korean people who put up a fight against the gag measures taken by the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique

on the press provided for in it is a tyrannical move to ban any reporting and comments on the elections in order to concoct their so-called elections by bayonets and terror. Exposing the press control in South Korea, he appealed to the South Korean journalists to rise up in an ever vigorous struggle for the freedom of speech and social justice.

He was followed by many speakers. Oh Ki Yung, Chief-Editor of the "Jokook Junsun," recalling the past when he was compelled to come over to North Korea to free himself from the press gag imposed by the Syngman Rhee clique, said that he wished to plunge himself into the ranks of the just

struggle for the South Korean friends. And he continued: "Let's demonstrate our united force for attaining the country's peaceful unification at an early date and for regaining your freedom of speech!"

Dr. Pak Shi Hyung, lawyer Li Chang Ho, story-teller Shin Bool Chool, journalist Bai Koo Rak, Merited Artist Shim Yung, Merited Actress Moon Ye Bong, poet Pak Pal Yang, linguist Hong Ke Moon, writer Li Sang Hyun, painter Kil Jin Sup, composer Li Jung Un and many others spoke in condemnation of malicious schemes by the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites and in support of the just struggle of the South Korean journalists.

At the meeting a stirring message to the South Korean journalists was unanimously adopted, part of which reads:

"We, for the freedom of speech and conscience of journalists, protest against the news blockade imposed by the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites, and firmly believe that your just struggle will culminate in victory."

March First Uprising

RIM MAN

IN A wave of vigorous labour efforts for the peaceful unification of the fatherland and socialist construction in the northern part of Korea, the Korean people are marking the thirty-ninth anniversary of the March First Uprising, a brilliant page in the history of the struggle for their national liberation against Japanese imperialism.

On March 1, thirty-nine years ago, the Korean people rose up against the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists. The uprising was an inevitable explosion of the national and economic contradictions stemming from the ferocious Japanese colonialist rule in their earlier days in Korea. And it was an historical event of great significance in the development of the Korean people's struggle for their national liberation against Japanese imperialism.

The Japanese imperialists who occupied Korea in 1910 and turned it into their exclusive colony instituted a regime of Governor-General and carried out a feudal, military rule.

The Japanese imperialists, above all, established a strong gendarme and police system. They stationed two crack divisions of army, a powerful fleet and marine corps in Korea. Every corner of Korea was infested with their gendarme and police. Innumerable prisons and jails webbed the land. Moreover, the Japanese imperialists armed all judicial and administrative officials and even primary school teachers with Japanese swords.

In addition, by such notorious laws as "Security Law," "Criminal Regulations," "Civil Regulations," "Press Law," "Regulations of Education" and others, the Japanese imperialists stripped the Korean people of every freedom and right. No anti-Japanese act, however insignificant it may be, was tolerated.

General Terauchi, the first Japanese Governor-General in Korea, openly declared: "Korean people must observe Japanese laws or they must die." His deeds were suited to his words. The Japanese language was made the only official one, and a policy of strict discrimination against the Korean people was practised.

Their economic policy was also of the most evil and predatory nature.

The Japanese imperialists were busy turning Korea into a market for their goods and their source of raw materials and foodstuffs. At the same time, they indulged shamelessly in savage plundering. On the plea of "Land Survey Work," they seized several million hectares of land from the Korean people. By enforcing their "corporation law" the Japanese imperialists hampered and restricted ruthlessly the development of national industry and held all the key positions in Korean economy.

The merciless plundering policy of Japanese imperialism reduced the Korean people to the state of extreme poverty.

Japanese imperialists' policy of unprecedented militarist oppression, barbarous plunder, extermination of Korean national culture, obscurantism and the most insulting discrimination against the Korean people, evoked the national resentment of Koreans, which exploded in a nation-wide revolutionary uprising against Japanese imperialism.

The victories of the great October Socialist Revolution in Russia encouraged the Korean people who had been downtrodden under the iron heel of the Japanese imperialsts, and emboldened workers, peasants and the entire Korean people to launch a revolutionary struggle for their national freedom and independence.

The Soviet Power, born of the great October Revolution, pursuing the Leninist foreign policy from its very inception, made a series of declarations on the abolishment of all unequal treaties concluded with small countries and on the assurance of national equality as well as genuine independence and self-determination of all nations. This helped greatly to strengthen the determination of Koreans and other oppressed people to rise up in revolution.

Those Koreans, who had left their home country behind and settled in the Far Eastern Soviet because of the brutal oppression and plunder by the Japanese imperialists, actively took part in the struggle in defence of the Soviet Power against the Japanese armed interventionists and White Guards.

Thanks to the gradual spreading of the influence of the October Revolution among youth and students at home and abroad, thousands of Korean students in Tokyo, Japan, looking toward Soviet Russia, issued their "Independence Declaration" and organized an anti-Japanese demonstration on February 8th, 1919.

Under the direct influence of the October Revolution, the revolutionary tide of the Korean people at home became extraordinarily high. Strikes of workers against the Japanese imperialists and capitalists, and peasant's anti-Japanese movements became more resolute. Soon the revolutionary tide swept the people of all walks of life.

In this way, revolutionary conditions were gradually matured in Korea and an outburst of nation-wide anti-Japanese movement became inevitable.

At this juncture when the people's anti-Japanese activity at home and abroad was at high tide and the political crisis became acute, the bourgeois nationalists tried to regroup themselves in consideration of the new situation. They attempted to crown themselves with the honour of "pioneers" of national movement.

In their "Independence Declaration," the bourgeois nationalists did not propose any reform of social and economic conditions. They ignored the interests of working people.

It was, therefore, very clear from the beginning that the bourgeois political programme, which did not reflect the objective requirements of social life, could not serve as a guide to the people's fighting.

Moreover, their political programme ran through the "petition for independence." They tried to achieve independence through a compromise and non-resistance. The bourgeois nationalists staked their hopes on foreign assistance and sympathy in disbelief of people's strength. They attempted to achieve independence through Wilson's humbug on "self-determination". Therefore, they gave in to the enemies on the eve of the uprising, in fear of the people's revolutionary tide. But the people did not follow them.

Due to the backwardness of the colonial and semi-feudal society at that time, the growth of Korean working class was insignificant. Consequently, there existed no party of the working class. Under such circumstances, the March First Uprising burst out spontaneously on the occasion of the funeral services of Kojong, the last Emperor of Korea.

On March 1, 1919, in Seoul all citizens — workers, peasants, youth and petty bourgeoisie—rose up. The stormy waves of demonstrations started by students swept the whole city. They demonstrated under the slogans: "Long live the independence of Korea!" "Korea is for Koreans" "Long live freedom and equality!" "Japanese army and Japanese citizens, go home!" and so on.

All factory workers and office employees were joined by medium and small industrialists and traders who closed their shops and boycotted Japanese goods. Everywhere in the city mass meetings were held; handbills and

leaflets were distributed. More than 300,000 people took part in the demonstrations. All traffic came to a standstill. And every Japanese government organization was paralysed.

The colonialist plunderers took brutal measures to suppress the bare-handed peaceful demonstrators with guns and swords. Thousands of people were killed, wounded or arrested on the first day. Streets of Seoul were drenched in blood of the patriotic people who aspired after freedom and independence. But the demonstrators put up a heroic fight in disregard of the brutal suppression.

News of the independence demonstrations and the people's heroic struggle in Seoul against the bloody suppression of the Japanese imperialists spread like wildfire all over the country. Demonstrations broke out in Seoul, Pyongyang and many other parts of the country. The Korean people throughout the country rose up in nation-wide demonstrations.

Those people did not remain at peaceful demonstrations but went over gradually to mass insurrections. And in a number of places people put up armed resistance against the Japanese army and police. Everywhere Japanese government organs — county and township offices, gendarmerie, gendarme boxes and courts — were attacked, and railways and means of communications were burnt or destroyed. And the people also executed Japanese gendarme, police officials and their running dogs. Miners in Jiksan, South Choongchung Province, attacked the Japanese gendarmerie in Chunan on March 17; peasants in Riwon County, South Hamkyung Province, attacked and took over the county office after killing the Japanese head of the county administration; and peasants in Sooan of Hwanghai Province and Maingsan of South Pyongan Province raided gendarmeries, dealing deadly blows to them.

The Japanese colonialists were panic-stricken before the ever-rising revolutionary forces of the people.

The alarmed Japanese imperialists mobilized the gendarme, police, regular armies and even fire brigades to crush the patriotic uprisings of the Korean people, and resorted to brutal slaughter. Between March and May alone, the enemy killed more than 7,500 Korean patriotic people and wounded over 15,800. Then they arrested and threw more than 47,000 into prison and tortured them with unheard-of barbarity.

Perhaps the zenith of their brutality was exhibited in Suwon County. There the Japanese imperialists crowded Korean patriots into a church, poured oil around the building and set fire to it. And by no means was this an isolated incident. Everywhere the enemy slaughtered innumerable patriotic people and burnt, destroyed or seized their homes or properties at random.

But all the brutal suppression and slaughter could not break the fighting spirit of the Korean people who stood up for the freedom and independence of their fatherland. The more severe the suppression by the enemy became, the more the revolts gained in momentum.

Mention should be made that the peasants played the most active part in the movement. The peasants not only stood in the van of demonstrations and uprisings but also attacked Japanese land firms and vicious landlords. They burnt tenant contracts or debt notes. The fact that peasants, together with workers, constituted the main force made the March First Uprising assume a popular and revolutionary nature.

Workers also played an active part in the movement. The working class was yet unable to play an independent part in the nation-wide struggle of resistance, because it was still in its infancy. But they, together with the broad section of peasants, played a dominant role. Workers started actively to emerge on the political arena for national liberation by calling strikes of political nature. After September of the year the mass insurrections began to recede due to the barbarous repressive measures of Japanese imperialists. Yet strikes unyieldingly continued to grow.

The revolutionary activities of workers and peasants encouraged the anti-Japanese movement of youth and students, who joined enthusiastically in the mass struggle in disregard of the brutal suppression and persecution by the Japanese imperialists. Strikes were called. And in most cases they stood in the van of demonstrating or rioting masses. They encouraged the people by distributing leaflets.

As mentioned above, the March First Uprising took the form of a nation-wide struggle in which all the Korean people with the exception of only a few pro-Japanese and national traitors took part. Between March and May alone there were 1,491 demonstrations and revolts in 211 counties out of 218 with more than two millions of people participating.

This nation-wide struggle was not limited within the border of Korea. The March First Uprising exercised a great influence upon compatriots abroad. In particular, the Korean people's armed struggle in Northeast China and in the Soviet Maritime Provinces became more active in response to the movement at home, dealing heavy blows at the Japanese imperialists.

But the March First Uprising, the first mass movement for national independence, failed under the brutal suppression by the Japanese imperialists.

One of the major causes for failure was due to the absence of social forces or a revolutionary party capable of leading the movement.

Korea was then backward in social development.

Workers demonstrated their stoutness and militancy by joining actively in the uprising. But they were still too feeble in strength to form themselves into a class and consequently to have a party of their own. This unabled the working class to act as a leading force in the uprising. Thus without a leading class and party the uprising remained as a spontaneous movement. It failed to convert itself into a nation-wide armed struggle.

The preaching of the then bourgeois nationalists about capitulationist non-resistance and their treacherous surrender to enemy already on the eve of the movement had certain negative effects on the revolutionary advance of people.

Another important cause was that the movement for national liberation failed to pay due attention to the land question. The revolutionary struggle for national liberation against imperialism should have proceeded with the anti-feudal struggle accompanying the revolutionary advance of peasants. This may be said to be a fatal mistake in the March First Uprising.

The failure in the uprising was also partly attributed to the fact that the Korean people were unable to enjoy active support from the international revolutionary forces in their fight for liberation, while the Japanese imperialists grew stronger as a victorious country in World War I.

The great Soviet Union sincerely encouraged the Korean people in their struggle against Japanese imperialism. However, she had to wage a hard struggle against the armed interventionists and White Guards, so she could not actively help Korean people in the struggle for liberation. Nor could the Chinese people's forces, being still young, help us in our struggle.

Due to the causes above-mentioned, the March First Uprising failed. Yet it was an event of great importance in the history of national liberation struggle of the Korean people. They got valuable experiences and drew lessons from the event.

The March First Uprising, the first mass struggle of the Korean people against the Japanese colonialist plunderers, is linked with the world-wide proletarian revolutionary movement and colonial national liberation movement following the October Revolution. It demonstrated before the world that the Korean people would no longer want the fate of colonial slavery. Indeed, they dealt a fatal blow at Japanese imperialism by their heroic fighting.

Encountered with the nation-wide resistance of the Korean people, the Japanese imperialists had to change the form of their military rule into what they called a "cultural rule." The "cultural rule", however, was an attempt to deceive the Korean people and pacify their revolutionary spirit. The Japanese imperialists, being afraid of the revolutionary activities of the Korean people, had to make some concessions, even it was only to a limited extent.

From the experiences gained in the March First Uprising the Korean people could discern clearly who were their friends and who were their enemies.

Through the movement the Korean people distinctly came to know that feudal landlords and compradors were faithful agents of Japanese imperialism, while bourgeois nationalists who pretended to be "pioneers" of national liberation movement were weak and unsteady and some of them were even reactionary.

It was beyond doubt that national liberation could be realized only under the leadership of the working class and its party under the banner of Marxism-Leninism.

The false hope placed in the American imperialists, as advocated by the bourgeois nationalists, was also smashed. Some bourgeois nationalists staked big hopes on the

Wilson's idea on "National Self-Determination." But contrary to their expectation, the American imperialists did not support the struggle of the Korean people. It should be remembered that they encouraged in one or another form the colonialist subjugation policy of Japanese imperialism. Such attitude was clearly revealed in a statement by the American government with respect to the Korean people's March First Uprising. It said:

"... Since the Japanese government has not granted independence to Korea, President Wilson's declaration does not apply to the territories of Japanese Empire. In short, as Japan has undoubtedly made Korea a part of its Empire, it is quite impossible to propose to turn Korea back to its old status." Thus the U.S. government openly defended the cruel slaughtering policy of Japanese imperialism in Korea.

And the Korean people came to realize that genuine national liberation would be achieved only by following the way indicated by the October Revolution and the Soviet Union.

It was of great significance for a national liberation movement that the Korean people came to understand through their own actual experiences who were their friends and who were their enemies at home and abroad.

Another great historical significance of the uprising was that the national liberation movement of the Korean people entered upon a new stage of revolution against colonialism in which the working class is the guiding force.

The uprising awakened the national and class consciousness of the Korean working people. The experiences they gained in the uprising stood them in good stead.

Korean workers, peasants and intellectuals strengthened further the anti-Japanese struggle in conformity with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism.

The patriotic spirit displayed in the March First Uprising never ceased to leave the minds of people.

The patriotic tradition was carried forward by anti-Japanese armed struggle under the leadership of the staunch Communists headed by Kim Il Sung. This tradition gave out a brighter light in the course of building a new state in the northern part of the Republic after the liberation by the armed forces of the Soviet Union. Under the correct leadership of the Korean Workers' Party and the Government of the Republic, we have carried out the revolutionary tasks set before the Korean people already in the time of the March First Uprising, and now are waging the magnificent struggle for socialist construction.

But in the southern part of our fatherland, such anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolutionary tasks advanced in the time of the March First Uprising still remain unsettled because of the colonialist subjugation policy of the American imperialists and the traitor-our Syngman Rhee clique.

Therefore, before the entire Korean people still lies a basic task of carrying out anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution on nation-wide scale so as to withdraw the American imperialists from our country and achieve the unification and independence of the fatherland. For this purpose we must fulfil successfully socialist construction for the further consolidation of the democratic base of the northern part of the Republic.

Labour Protection for Women

MOON CHI SOO
Vice-Minister, Ministry of Labour, D.P.R.K.

TODAY the Korean women in the northern part of the country participated in all social activities—political, economic and cultural—enjoying equal rights with men.

The Workers' Party of Korea since liberation has regarded women as a great source of creative labour for the building of a democratic country.

In 1946, the people's power enforced the Law on Equality of Sex, thereby freeing women in the northern part of the country forever from fetters which had long bound them.

Our women have the right to take part in political activities and are given equal pay with men for equal work. All this was unthinkable before liberation.

The working women in our country, together with men, were subject to the capitalist exploitation of the Japanese imperialist colonial rulers. Under the Japanese rule they could not expect even the ordinary consideration due human beings, to say nothing of the opportunity to learn any skill for their work or to develop their mentality. And they had to work 12-14 hours a day to get the starvation wage which is less than half that paid men workers.

Moreover, the Japanese imperialists, taking advantage of the situation that many unemployed were waiting outside the gates of factories to be picked up when they like, drove the women workers into harmful, dangerous work where no safety devices or sanitary facilities were available.

However, such a story belongs to the past. Now their status has been radically changed.

After liberation, thanks to the historic democratic reforms carried out by the Workers' Party of Korea and the people's government exploitation of working women has been abolished once and for all.

The Laws on Land Reform, on Equality of Sex and on Nationalization of Major Industries and the Regulations on Labour Protection made it possible to sweep away from the northern part of the country the backward bourgeois order and the systems of pitiless exploitation of labour.

Thus the women, as honourable builders of the country, are fully guaranteed equal wages for equal work.

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Today our women are strictly prohibited by law from doing harmful and heavy labour, such as basic dye manufacturing, heavy loads packing, lumbering, rafting, diving and work in high temperature of over 800° C., on locomotive engines or in engine-rooms of ships and under water.

Moreover, a ban is placed on employment of women for heavy work which is not mechanized or regarded as harmful to their health by the organs supervising labour protection.

Especially the working women who are over four months in pregnancy are not to continue work which necessitates the lifting of things over 15 kilograms in weight, or of walking or standing on the feet all day.

Factories and enterprises shall not deny employment to pregnant women and mothers with children under one year of age, nor discharge them unless the organs supervising labour protection consent for special reasons. And they shall not be sent to other places on business unless they agree.

Those who can work even after six months in pregnancy are to be transferred to lighter jobs. When a woman keeps working at the usual job, working conditions must be improved so as to make it easier for her. For instance, when a pregnant turner is advised by a doctor not to lift weight of over 3 kilograms the doctor's advice must be followed.

Pregnant workers transferred to lighter jobs are paid an average wage of the past six months. And even if she cannot fulfil her quota in the period of pregnancy due to some causes, the average wage shall not be changed.

Pregnant workers in our country are provided with a maternity leave, a special holiday for 35 days before delivery and 42 days after it. During the period they receive a subsidy from the state in accordance with the social insurance. All working women get ma-

ternity leave, no matter how long their service has been.

In addition to the maternity leave the pregnant workers get the annual paid holiday, the choice of its time being left to the workers themselves.

Besides the fixed rest period in the work day, the working women with babies are also given time to nurse them twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, for 30 minutes each time. And they are specially provided with sanitary arrangements and the proper places to nurse the babies by the enterprises and organs.

According to the Regulations on Labour Protection, a nursery shall be prepared in every working place where there are more than 20 children of the workers below 3 years of age, a children's park in an enterprise with over 100 women employees, a place to nurse the babies in an enterprise with more than 10 mothers (if there is not a nursery).

Even during the severe war time when factories and enterprises were removed to safe places, the Party and Government paid special attention to the strengthening of the work of labour protection for working women. And after the war the work has been further improved.

By the end of 1957 the number of nurseries increased 13.7 per cent over 1947, and the safety devices grew 34.8 per cent during the same period.

Special attention is paid for ensuring the proper labour tools and working conditions for them in consideration of their physical conditions.

The working women consult a doctor twice a year, pregnant workers once a month and those who are over six months in pregnancy, as occasion demands. Priority is given to them in utilizing health facilities, and materials for sanitation are given gratis or at low prices.

Moreover, every opportunity to enhance their technique and skill in their jobs is given to the working women in factories, enterprises and other organizations.

In our country, many workers' schools, evening technical schools, evening and correspondence courses are available besides the regular educational net-work. And factories and enterprises run technical courses all the year round. Many working women attend these schools and are learning and practising their technique while working.

Since the war, the Party and Government have also taken every possible measure for the labour protection of women in the countryside. Today agricultural co-ops have nursery, kindergarten, dispensary, etc. The peasant women in the state farms and agricultural co-ops are enjoying maternity leave and every protection in their line of work.

Now our women comprise more than 40 per cent of the entire workers in the field of light industry, such as cotton and silk textile manufacture, food processing, pulp, paper, salt manufacturing, etc. Inspired by the deep concern of the Party and Government, they are displaying their labour enthusiasm in the struggle for the fulfilment and overfulfilment of their quota envisaged in the First Five-Year Plan.

Thanks to the measures taken since liberation by the Party and Government for the protection of women's labour, the contradiction existing in the relations between men and women have been removed; women are made excellent fighters in the socialist building of the country, i.e., the creators of the people's welfare and happiness.

This testifies to the fact that only under the people's power which the people themselves hold firmly in their own hands, can women enjoy their due rights.

However, the work of labour protection for women is not sufficient yet. There is much to be done to meet the growing material and cultural demands of our women with the rapid advance of the socialist construction in our country. Much is being planned for this purpose. Now that the building tempo has become further accelerated, the work will, without doubt, be done more perfectly.

But the women in South Korea, part of our country liberated on the same day, are forced to lead the life of colonial slaves under the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites' rule in place of the Japanese imperialists'.

The U.S. imperialists and the traitorous Syngman Rhee clique are further strengthening their war policy instead of accepting a series of just and reasonable proposals on the country's peaceful unification made by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K.

Consequently the industry and agriculture in South Korea have deteriorated and the working people have been driven into the mire of unemployment and poverty.

As for the rights of workers, especially these of women, they are trodden underfoot. Today in South Korea the term of "labour protection" is meaningless. Workers there are forced to work under the worst condition for 12-17 hours without taking rest.

About 80-90 per cent of the working women are getting the lowest wages, less than one third or even one fourth of the lowest living cost.

Today in South Korea more than 500,000 war widows are eking out an existence without any jobs. In the city of Seoul alone such widows number about 30,000 with over 60,000 family members to feed.

This state of affairs in South Korea shows how cruel the U.S. imperialists' colonial enslavement and war policy is.

Unless the fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the traitorous Syngman Rheeites over the South Korean people is discontinued, the status of women will never be improved.

Therefore the South Korean women are waging struggle for the peaceful unification of the country against the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee gang, and to attain the political and economic rights the women in North Korea are enjoying.

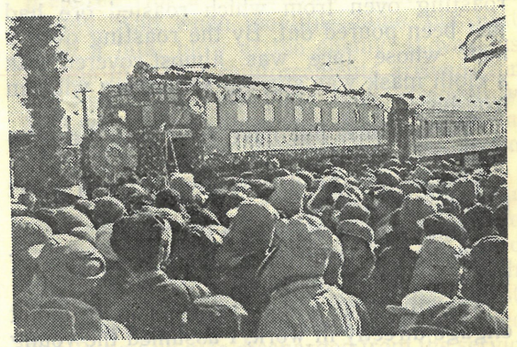
The working women in North Korea are devoting their patriotic endeavour to the sacred cause of socialist construction in the northern part of the country which is a material guarantee for the country's peaceful unification, further strengthening international friendship and solidarity with all democratic women the world over, especially with those of the socialist countries, and are fully enjoying the freedom and rights.

KOWON-CHUNSUNG ELECTRIC RAILWAY OPENED

Electrification of the Kowon-Chunsung Railway Line was completed and opened to traffic on January 22. Following the electrification of the Yangduk-Chunsung line, this was the third railway to be electrified in our country since liberation. The newly electrified Kowon-Chunsung line covers 38 kilometres.

The work was completed by Korean workers and technicians with the aid of the Soviet technicians. In response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic for an enlarged railway transport capacity and better transport facilities, the workers and technicians of Electric Railway Construction Company under the Ministry of Transport completed in the short period of 7 months up-to-date transformer substations and more than 1,000 pylons. A total of 200 kilometres including 77 kilometres of electrified railways have been completed. The Kowon Electric Locomotive Yard workers not only repaired six 50 h.p. motors, but restored two damaged electric locomotive engines by making more than 100 parts themselves.

The opening ceremony of electric railway construction was attended by all the workers and technicians who participated in the construction. Choi Yong Kun, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and other government leaders and local Party and government officials were present. Also present at the ceremony were N. M. Shestselikov, Councilor of Embassy of the U.S.S.R. to the D.P.R.K., and V.I. Makarov, Head of the Bureau of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries of the U.S.S.R.



First train on the Kowon-Chunsung electric railway which has been opened to traffic

In the opening ceremony, President Choi Yong Kun said that the electrification of railways was of great significance in our country, particularly in view of its mountainous features.

On the basis of results and experiences already achieved, he added that electrification of the Shinsung-chun-Yangduk line which is to be completed before the year end and the Kaiko-Koin, Myungchun-Tanchun lines which are included in the Five-Year Plan will be carried out successfully.

Electrification of Kowon-Chunsung line will add greatly in the national economic development of our country. It will increase the train turn-round between Kowon-Yangduk by 140 per cent, pulling capacity by 118 per cent and freight haulage by 172 per cent.

Amidst Peaceful Labour

AN PA YUNG

HE WAS NOT in his office room.

"They say he is at the roasting workshop," an elderly clerk told me after ringing up a number of workshops.

"You might be able to meet him sooner by going there, for the shop leader seldom comes to the office."

I entered the roasting workshop. After climbing several ladders, I reached the topmost storey where a number of roasting-cylinders were installed.

White smoke was billowing up from a roasting oven from which roasted ore had just been poured out. By the roasting oven a man whose face was almost covered with a cloth mask was stirring something with an iron-bar.

"Pardon me, but have you seen the shop leader?" I asked.

Raising his head and giving me a short glance, he shouted:

"What do you want him for?"

We had to shout at each other because of the noise of the machines.

Knowing that a shop leader usually didn't engage directly in work, I assumed the young man was a roasting worker.

But this slim young man, yet under thirty and looking somewhat boyish, turned out to be none other than Pak Bong Sub, the trade union leader of the copper-smelting shop of this smeltery — the very one I was looking for.

After several moments I came out of the place with him and proceeded towards the 600-foot smokestack of which the Nampo Smeltery is so proud.

"Only recently," he began, "I was a repair worker at the roasting workshop. So, when I make the round of workshops I usually take along tools and work a bit. It is not easy to depart from one's old habit."

He had traversed a hard way as most of Korean working youth have. Born as the second son in a landless farmer's family of six he had had great difficulties in earning a living. He worked as an illiterate tenant farmer or farm hand during the Japanese imperialist rule until the day of liberation (August 15, 1945). He was then eighteen years old.

When he was nine, his father died. Then his lonely mother with four children was driven out of the landlord's farmland, because her family had many mouths to feed but no work hand. They had to work their fingers to the bone to maintain a miserable existence. Pak Bong Sub recalls that his mother was turning grey already in her thirties.

After liberation about a hectare of fertile land was given to his mother, who had never before owned even a patch of land.

Thereafter Pak Bong Sub worked hard on his farm and studied hard for three and a half years at an adult school and an evening middle school. With his cleverness and thirst for learning he always led his class at school.

Later he studied electronics at the Technical Training Centre of the Nampo Chemical Factory. Having finished it with highest marks, he started to work at the sulphate workshop.

His days were filled with joy. He always overfulfilled his quotas and continued to get special technical training. In the factory's drama circle he was a fine actor and a talented amateur producer. He liked to sing also. And he seldom ever missed a good play or cinema. He loved to fish in the Taidong River in summer and skate in winter.

But in the summer of 1950 just three days after his return from Outer Keumkang Rest Home where he had been vacationing for twenty days, the Korean War broke out. The armed American interventionists and Syngman Rhee clique launched a sudden brutal aggression all along the 38th parallel. The happy and peaceful days of Pak Bong Sub and his friends were disrupted by the invaders.

Production at the factory was reorganized on a war-time basis. Many of his friends volunteered for the front. He was told to stay behind. He envied his friends. One day his foreman Shin Soon said to him:

"Bong Sub, why do you keep feeling that way? There can be no front without the rear. You should stay behind because you are needed very badly here in this factory. Yet you don't seem to understand that. Of course, I know how you feel, but I think you should wait for your turn."

But Pak Bong Sub still could not shake off his gloom. The enemy are running wild and his friends had gone out to meet them. But he — he was still left behind. How he wished to be at the front!

One day in the latter part of August, 1950, when the front line had moved deep into the south, the chairman of the Factory Party Committee called him in.

"Comrade Bong Sub," the chairman asked, "do you still want to go to the front?"

In excitement Bong Sub jumped to his feet at the chairman's words.

"Calm yourself — I think you'll be allowed to join the army," the chairman continued.

So Bong Sub joined the ranks at the front to fight the enemy.

In the army, he was a communication man. And he did his job very well. Of course, it was his cherished dream to become an infantryman or artilleryman to exchange fire directly with the enemy. But he carried out his task faithfully and his knowledge of electricity enabled him to make many useful suggestions.

In the winter of 1951, in a trench at the front the matter of a brave communication man joining the Party was discussed.

Pak Bong Sub was given the honour of entering the Party at the front on December 2.

Sometime later his wish to be transferred to the infantry unit was realized and he was sent to the frontmost line.

The battle for retaking a hill near Hun-ri was the severest one in his army life.

The mercenary soldiers of the American imperialists again and again attempted to climb up the hill. Second-squad leader Pak Bong Sub and his squad were on the right flank to check the enemy's advance.

The American mercenary soldiers pressed hard repeatedly upon our position. Our guns boomed constantly mowing down waves of the onrushing enemy.

But the enemy was very stubborn. Day and night, they poured a rain of bullets. Our units fought hard. Reinforcements were needed very badly. Our ammunition was running low, and supplies were short. The situation was becoming more difficult.

After a week's fierce fighting the second-in-command found that only one private left with him in his squad. Under a barrage of covering fire the enemy obstinately stormed the hill.

The week's severe battle had left the members of the platoon to which Pak Bong Sub belonged in a state of utter exhaustion. Casualties were heavy.

However, the platoon never gave up the battle. Under the most horrible conditions it prepared for a showdown fight with the enemy. And when the time came, our units dealt a fatal blow at the enemy. It was just at this time that reinforcements arrived from the rear. With fresh vigor and strength we kept pounding at the enemy. At last the enemy retreated, leaving innumerable dead bodies behind.

It seemed a miracle that Pak Bong Sub survived. But he did. He was made a master sergeant and transferred to a unit for guarding the coast line. We won victory in the struggle against the American imperialists and the Armistice Agreement was concluded. Pak Bong Sub was discharged from the service and came back to peaceful labour. He wanted to resume his former job at the Nampo Chemical Factory, but the factory had been destroyed by the brutal bombardment of the American imperialists. So he started to work at the Nampo Smeltery.

The smeltery was in ruins, too. But the rehabilitation work proceeded at full speed.

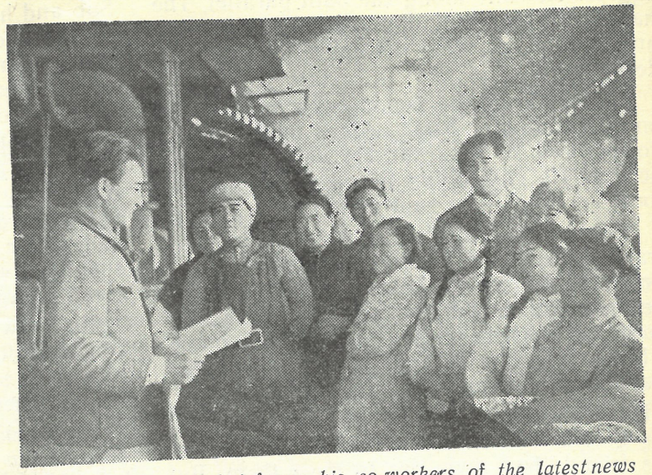
Repeatedly he reminded himself: the enemy should not be allowed to extend its dirty hands again to this paradise for labour. Our parents and brothers should not be forced to abandon their happy life to die or wander about in rags on streets. No, it could not and should not be allowed to happen again. So Pak Bong Sub kept at his work with a burning wish to enjoy again happy life in his flourishing fatherland.

Soon after he entered his factory, the young repair worker at the roasting workshop won the reputation of the entire shop.

Non-accident operation of machine movement was promoted by him. He was supported by the Factory Party Committee and enjoyed affection of the entire workers. After a while he was elected as a shop trade union leader by the workers of the copper smelting shop.

He studied and quickly grasped the work of the whole shop. Before him there were several important questions.

One of the most urgent was to utilize for smelting ore anthracite, abundant in our country, instead of imported coal.



Pak Bong Sub informs his co-workers of the latest news

He had a firm conviction in the possibilities of using anthracite for smelting. Tests were carried out successfully and at last his suggestion was put into effect.

Another suggestion was one-furnace-operation movement initiated by Ryoo Hyun Kyu, a smelting worker in this factory and a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly. Formerly, the shop had operated two furnaces, but Ryoo's idea was that with one furnace the output of two furnaces could be exceeded.

The key-point of this suggestion was to remodel the funnel to ensure enough ventilation so as to use the biggest possible dimensions for the furnace in production.

This suggestion was objected to even by veteran technicians and skilled workers. They insisted that the suggestion was quite impossible to realize. They even called the suggestion a reckless ambitious attempt to win honour.

But the Factory Party Committee supported the suggestion, because Ryoo Hyun Kyu, who had been a smelter for more than twenty years since he was seventeen years old, seemed to have confidence in his suggestions.

With the backing of the Party Committee the shop leader had to persuade workers and technicians to support this new suggestion. He organized political and technical discussions to explain and prove the possibility of effecting the suggestion.

"Then, let us try!" the workers at last agreed.

The new suggestion scored a success, as some had expected. During the Three-Year Plan the annual target had been fulfilled by two furnaces, but now the one remodeled furnace could produce twenty per cent more than two furnaces did previously.

Now the output by the remodeled furnace was bigger than that by seven furnaces in the times of the Japanese rule.

The shop leader still had many ideas to be carried out.

With the winter approaching, he organized a movement of enlisting public labour in the work of repairing and building houses for workers. Thus thirtyone families were housed in the newly built houses and the houses of fiftyfive peasants were repaired.

The trade union committee of the shop has helped in every way in their daily affairs.

"Lots of work is waiting for me. The more we study and pay attention to our job, the more we can increase our production. Our work is very important," the shop leader said.

Pak Bong Sub, a demobilized soldier employed in peaceful labour, gave a sweeping glance at the factory as if to say that he had plenty of work.

Into a Land of Plenty

KIM JAI DUK

IN THE Province of South Hamkyung there is a small county named Hongwon lying along the northeastern coast. It covers some 30 kilometers of coast line and its whole area is barely 548 square kilometers. Of this small area, only 17 per cent of the land is suitable for cultivation, while 9 per cent is highlands and the remaining 74 per cent is mountainous region, some 1,200-1,500 meters above sea level.

Judging from the geographical conditions, it seems that agriculture is of a very limited scope and consequently the life of inhabitants is poor. Even the narrow strip of arable land situated at such high altitude is subject not infrequently to frost damage.

Moreover, the density of population per square kilometre stands at the rather high figure of 97. This reporter wanted to find out how the local people fared in the unfavorable conditions. The best source for me to learn this was the conference of the People's Committee of Hongwon County, which was called to discuss the phase of agricultural development in the First Five-Year Plan.

A few days before the opening of the conference I went down to Hongwon County to gather some facts about the place. I called on the County People's Committee, where I learnt quite a few things. One of the questions I asked was whether or not the local farmers had any surplus rice. An agricultural clerk of the Committee opened a book and showed me a column of figures. It read 1,564 tons and 780 kilograms. My first thought was that the figure was rather extraordinary and could not help thinking that I misread that number. But, that was the figure! Upon further examination of the book I learnt that every farm household received on the average 1,800 kilograms of rice.

The clerk, with a surprised look at my amazement, said:

"I thought you came to attend our scheduled conference. These figures should not surprise you. After all, we are now raising enough grain for our own consumption. This conference is to discuss how to build a paradise on the earth . . ."

Nevertheless, one cannot but be astonished over the fact that the small strip of land—17 per cent of the whole area—can produce grain with a substantial surplus for the local populace. The clerk showed me another set of figures. The farmers here are better off not only in agricultural produce but also in cash incomes. According to the figures he showed me, in the past year every farm household netted on the average 20,000 won. Only three years ago they received about 5,000 won each.

Comprehensive Plans

The conference was called to order as scheduled. This conference was to draw up an agricultural development plan based on the report delivered by Premier Kim Il Sung at the First Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly two months ago.

The draft plans, presented by the local People's Committee, had been prepared after thorough and wide discussions among all the members of every co-operative in the county. I was told that the draft plans reflected the economic peculiarities of the county and the needs of the local people.

All this was clearly visible in their scheduled construction of various modern farm houses. The houses are planned to meet the typical geographical conditions of various districts in size and style. And in their orchard expansion programme different fruits suitable for the localities are to be cultivated.

The local People's Committee, taking into consideration the wish and initiative of the co-operatives, worked out a most suitable programme for the entire county. In turning out such programme they based it on the general principle: a correct application of the wise, old saying that "when in the mountain, live off the mountain; when on the sea, live off the sea; when in the field live off the field."

It is planned to extend livestock raising along with facilities for various side-line work in the mountainous regions. In the coastal regions fishing activities are to be stepped up while in the flat regions a further development of farming is foreseen.

Expansion of livestock farming three times that of the present will be possible by extending the grazing grounds in the mountainous areas. And in order to increase their earnings from sericulture 2.5 to 3 times compared with the present, a new variety of trees for tussah will be planted. And on regions of medium altitude the acreage of mulberry and apple trees will increase more than ten times that at present. Consequently, five years from now the income of the highland people will amount to as much as 1.5 times that of the county as a whole (excluding the fishery). This will be 3-3.5 times their last year's income.

While a profitable programme was planned for the mountainous inhabitants, special attention was also paid to improving the life of people on the coast by fully developing marine resources. Fishery co-operatives will be formed and sometimes agro-fishery co-operatives, as the occasion calls for. Besides, state funds will be granted to secure fishing boats and tackle, while skilled fishermen and technicians will be recruited from the state fisheries and at the same time younger workers trained.

But the most important of all is agriculture. By the end of 1961, it is envisaged, grain yields will be 1.5 times that of 1957. In order to attain this goal a large scale irrigation work will be undertaken along with the completion of river dykes and land reclamation. During this period measures will be taken to improve the farming technically and economically. 25 per cent of field work will be mechanized and the saved labour power will be directed to organize extensively side-line.

The draft plan of the County People's Committee showed that in 1961 the income in cash and receipts in kind will double compared with the present. Every farm household will be able to live on with one year's harvest for more than two years.

The draft plan also provides a well thought-out cultural programme along with the improvement of living standards of the people. The first point is the construction of modern farm houses. During this period 30 per cent of the entire farm families will be housed in new buildings, and the medical facilities will increase 1.5 times. Also each village will have more than two new recreation and cultural halls. And school buildings will be expanded or newly built to meet the universal compulsory junior middle school education which the state will enforce during this period. Moreover, the few remaining hamlets without light in the mountainous region will be electrified, and relay broadcast facilities be improved.

The five-year plan that this county has laid out is based on the fact that today 92 per cent of the total farm households are embraced in the co-ops.

Cooperativisation has made it possible to operate economy in a planned way and utilize labour power in a organized manner. Particularly, emphasis had been put on a systematic, regular educational programme for disseminating scientific knowledge among the farmers, and a training programme of farm workers to meet the demands for a higher level of scientific knowledge needed in the farm construction. At present, excluding those attending higher institutions of learning and senior middle schools, there are some 1,000 young people who are enrolled in the Farm Youth School or in technical short courses. It is foreseen that from 1961 on, there will be 300 graduates annually from this county, who will work at the co-ops.

The new five-year plan based this vast and proud programme strictly on the possibilities, practical and real. These came from the experiences which they personnally acquired in the past.

The deputies proudly pointed out these facts in the conference, emphasizing that the enhancement of the people's creative zeal and wisdom would serve as an important factor in the realisation of such vast programme.

Under People's Power

Under the land reform of March, 1946, 7,727 hectares of paddy and dry fields, formerly belonging to Japanese, national traitors and big landlords, were distributed among 9,948 poor peasants without compensation in this county. However, except one quarter which was paddy field, the total area was more or less gravelly soil. On top of this, the farmers were short of farm implements, draught animals, seeds and provisions. This was the picture twelve years ago.

The very fact that landless peasants were given land was an epoch-making event. The farmers who previously had no land of their own became the masters of the land. However, they faced the urgent task of sowing. This they successfully did with the help of people's power. The state came to their aid with farm machines, draught animals, seeds and provisions.

Furthermore, it appropriated 12 million won for large scale irrigation and water conservation projects. And several new fishing ports were built. Moreover, several motor boats and scores of fishing boats were loaned to the fisheries.

The local people's power paid attention to the introduction of advanced farm methods and more efficient utilization of the mountains and coastal areas. In the new environment the farmers improved their lot by displaying their creative energies which for centuries had had no outlet.

They studied and found ways of preventing frost damage, how to raise the utility rate of land and to acquire new wealth from the mountains and sea. The farmers raised the per hectare yield from the previous figure of 1.2 tons to over 3 tons, while the fishermen increased their hauls more than four times that at the time of the Japanese imperialist rule.

In 1949 the land utility rate increased 150 per cent as against pre-liberation days; the rice yield 292.2 per cent per hectare; other grain 321.8 per cent. These figures meant that the farmers had harvested sufficient grain to feed the entire population of the county for 8 to 9 months, while in former days their total yields could sustain the population for less than 3 months. Three years after the land reform, 261 families had built new tile-roofed houses, while 421 houses had bought sewing machines and 161 households purchased radio sets.

The number of primary schools increased from 14 to 35; 14 middle schools were established where there was none; 98 per cent of the county's school-age children were studying in these schools. Besides, 322 adult schools were provided to combat illiteracy.

The county people's power, which organised and rapidly developed the economic and cultural life, took timely measures for the reconstruction of the county in the post-war period. During the war the county suffered damage amounting to some 977 million won.

For economic recovery the state reduced or exempted the farmers and fishermen of the county from their obligations and taxes. The payment of a large quantity of grain loans and tax in kind was cancelled. Not only that. For land construction the state granted 16 million won to the county and loaned some 30 motor boats and fishing boats. Under the deep concern extended to them by the state the county people set out to rebuild their own village with doubled vigor.

Look Forward

Mention should be made of their ready acceptance of cooperativisation, the new economic sector that appeared in the post-war era. The people, uniting their individual labour, set out to undertake such difficult projects as a large scale land reclamation and a fuller exploitation of mountainous areas, which were unthinkable in the days of individual farming. Cooperativisation brought them many brilliant renovations in their farm activities. Ways were sought for increasing home-made fertilizers, improving seeds, introducing advanced farm methods.

Special mention should be made of their mixed cultivation of corn, beans and potatoes, introduced first by the Bohyun Agricultural Co-operative. They now plant in the same fields corn, beans, and potatoes, where before only corn was cultivated.

The yield of corn did not change. But great quantities of beans and potatoes were added. To protect the crops from cold and frost they selected early-ripening, cold-resistant seeds which reduced frost damage by one half.

In 1956, each farm household received an average of 2 tons and 100 kilograms of grain as its share.

The co-operatives in the mountainous areas had their own programme for bettering their life. Various opportunities were provided to develop side-line. Particularly, each member

of Wonduk Agricultural Co-op earned 112,000 won last year by extending the raising of tussah and the cultivation of orchards.

The correct leadership of the people's power and the enhanced zeal of the people had made it possible already in 1955, two years after the truce, to surpass the prewar level in production and cultural construction. And in 1957, they made a further advance, exceeding the 1955 level by 1.5 times.

Along with the creative enthusiasm of the inhabitants a noble spirit of mutual assistance has been fostered among individuals and co-operatives. It is noteworthy that the people living in flat lands extended help to those who live on poor soil in mountains. And the Bonghwa Agricultural Co-op decided to give help to some 40 poor households of the Kalgool District 8 kilometres away from the co-op. They resolved to embrace these poor families in the co-op and to provide them with ways and means of self support.

Fishermen prepare fertilizers from fish waste to be supplied to farmers. In return the farmers give vegetables to the fishermen. Thus, with mutual aid the road of socialism is being paved.

The tasks set forth in the county's five year plan are vast and difficult to be carried out. But there is no doubt that these tasks will be achieved by the diligent and faithful inhabitants of this county. These people are confident of this. This comes from their valuable experiences and great attainments in the past year. Now they are looking forward to a happier morrow.

All the deputies present at the conference were confident of a successful conclusion of the plan. Every one of them resolved to do his utmost to carry out the plans which the County People's Committee charted.

The County People's Committee composed of people's representatives represent the wish of the people and act in the interest of the people's welfare. It is the true people's power to which the people are willing to entrust their fate. 22 deputies representing farmers and fishermen and 51, ten of whom were women, from the ranks of workers, office employees, small businessmen, and religious workers, participated in the discussions of the county's five year plan.

The County of Hongwon, as stated above, consists chiefly of mountainous areas. But as the inhabitants say, "they have an increasing volume of gold in the fields". The great leading role of the Workers' Party of Korea which stands for progress and peace and strives to build a paradise on earth will surely lead them to transform this area into a land of plenty in the not far off future.

The conference hall rang with approving cheers and applause of the people who fully supported the five year plan for their county's development.

KOREAN SKATERS IN ALMA ATA

Friendly speed skating contest of four nations, Korea, Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, China and Rumania, took place from January 26 to 29, 1958 on a high altitude skating rink in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan.

Korean speed skaters won second place in team scoring, next to the skaters of Kazakhstan. Chinese skaters were placed third and Rumanians fourth.

In the women's meet held on January 26-27, the Korean skater Ko Kyung Hi did well. She finished 500 metres in 50.1 sec., thereby improving her record of the D.P.R.K. by 0.9 second. In the 1,500-metre event, she clocked 2 min. 38.3 sec., 1 min. 40.3 sec. in 1,000-metre and 5 min. 46.2 in 3,000-metre event. She bettered all her D.P.R.K. records in these events.

In the men's events which took place on January 27-28, our skaters did well.

In the men's 500-metre event, both Kim Eui Jun and Pak Jai Choon finished in 44.2 sec., and Han In Hak, in 44.3 sec., both improving the D.P.R.K. records.

Kim Eui Jun's time in 1,500-metre race was 2 min. 19.9 sec.

In the friendly four nations speed skating contest our skaters demonstrated how rapidly sports in Korea are developing.

In the NEWS

HOUSING IN PYONGYANG FORGING AHEAD

This year more dwelling houses for working people will be built in the rapidly rising modern city of Pyongyang.

The building of over 477,000 square metres of apartments has been started. The designers and builders of Pyongyang City lively discussed the measures for renovating the work in 1958 after summing up the implementation of the decisions of the December 1956 Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea. Many good suggestions were advanced for exploiting reserves for fund, material and labour enough to build houses for more than 10,000 households in addition to the state plan. Thus in Pyongyang 17,000 houses in total will be built within the year.

More than 60 per cent of the new houses will be four or five storey. The avenue approaching Pyongyang Station will be lined with five-storey houses. Construction of other pre-fabricated dwelling houses is proceeding briskly in all districts of the city.

IMPROVED UTILIZATION OF BLAST FURNACES

Although no new blast furnace went into operation last year, output of pig iron increased by 44 per cent above 1956. The increase was made possible due to the tenacious labour of smelters and technicians who, in response to the call of the Party, worked hard to increase output to the maximum by making the best of existing installations.

Bold reforms in the utilization of blast furnaces resulted in the marked improvement of heating capacity. Coefficient of utilization of blast furnaces in 1956 was 1.35, whereas it was 0.957 in 1957.

FISHING TARGETS BEATEN

Our fishermen, who caught 564,000 tons of fish last year or 55 per cent greater than in 1956, continue to increase fish hauls.

Fishermen of the Kim Chaik Fishery have launched a drive for bigger catch and full operation of boats. They topped their targets for January by 0.6 per cent already by January 8.

The results in the first month of the year have greatly stimulated their enthusiasm for overfulfilling the state assignments for the year, which are 41.4 per cent greater than in the previous year.

FIBRE FROM REED

With the help of scientists and technicians, workers of the Shinuijoo Pulp Factory succeeded in their experiments on making artificial fibre from reed in 1956. After necessary preparations for industrial production during the past year, trial production has started this year.

The artificial fibre with desirable hardness is not inferior to wool in quality.

The success has opened up bright prospects for the development of artificial fibre manufacturing in our country.

RECONSTRUCTION OF HWANGHAI IRON WORKS PROCEEDING APACE

Rehabilitation of blast furnaces and coke ovens in the Hwanghai Iron Works is now nearing completion.

Some 400 home-made machines and equipment are being installed after careful tests and trial operations.

Rehabilitation of a blower, the heart of the blast furnace, with a capacity of 4,000 h.p., is proceeding apace. And it is now under trial operation. The building of a coke oven is also nearing completion.

Assembly workers are working hard to have the blast furnace and coke oven commissioned by May Day.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE NATIONAL ART THEATRE

The State National Art Theatre, which has made great contributions to carry forward the heritages of national art, and the development of our democratic national culture, upholding the literary and art policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K., celebrated its tenth anniversary on January 11.

To mark the anniversary, the theatre staged its new production, Korean opera "A Tale of Heungboo."

In the past decade, the theatre produced six Merited Artistes, An Ki Ok, Lim So Hyang, Jung Nam Hi, Jo Sang Sun, Yoo Tai Bok and Kim Kwan Bo, and trained a number of young artists.

HUCHUN-GANG POWER PLANT IN PROGRESS

On January 15 Generator No. 3 of Station No. 4, Huchun-gang Power Plant, went into operation. It took many years to rehabilitate the generator which had been damaged by the Japanese imperialists in 1944, and suffered again severe damage during the war. Along with other three generators rehabilitated by 1957, it has a capacity of generating 20,000 kwh.

4,000 KW GENERATOR PRODUCED

Production of hydraulic power generator with a capacity of 4,000 kw has started for the first time in Korea at the Daian Electric Appliances Factory.

The generator will be installed in the Keumkang-san Power Plant.

The entire process of production from designing to assembly work has been planned by Korean technicians and workers trained at home and in the fraternal countries after the country's liberation.

And it is further planned to make another generators with varying capacity for the Jangjin-gang, Namdai-chun and Booryung-gang power plants and a special generator with a capacity of 1,600 kw to be used for the Uhjidon Irrigation Works.

COTTON FROM WILD PLANT

Recently laboratory workers of the Kangge Chemical Factory have succeeded in the experiments on producing "cotton" from a wild plant named Nobakduwulli.

And the cotton gained from the wild plant is not, it has been proved, inferior to ordinary cotton in quality — hardness, colour and preservation of warmth. The cost of production will be about one half that of natural cotton.

The factory is making necessary preparations for industrial production of this "cotton" which will start from the second half of the year.

KOREAN-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED

Korean and Soviet trade delegates signed, on January 9 in Moscow, a protocol on mutual delivery of goods for 1958.

According to the protocol signed on the basis of the spirit of equality, mutual benefit, friendship and co-operation, Korea will deliver to the Soviet Union lead, zinc, nonferrous metal ore, concentrated ore, alloy metals, chemical products, canned goods, apples and others, while the Soviet Union will send to Korea machines ,automobiles, rolled ferrous and non-ferrous metal products, pipes, cable wires, petroleum products, chemical products, rubber, medicines, paper and other goods needed for Korea's economic development.

KOREAN-CHINESE TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED

A trade protocol between the D.P.R.K. and the People's Republic of China was signed on January 22 in Peking. It is in accordance with the Korean-Chinese Agreement on Economic and Cultural Co-operation signed in 1953.

According to the protocol, Korea will provide China with magnetic iron ore, non-ferrous metal products, pig iron, carbide, fertilizers, marine products and other goods, while China will deliver to Korea coal, raw cotton, cotton yarns, cotton fabrics, sulphur, machinery, rubber, and other goods.

FOR FRESH WATER FISH-BREEDING

On January 20-21, a national conference of active fresh-water fish-breeders took place.

The resolutions adopted at the conference laid stress on increasing the annual production of fresh-water fish to 100,000 tons within ten years, on expanding the area of paddy fields for fish breeding upwards of 100,000 hectares to produce more than 20,000 tons of carp and on harvesting 40,000 tons of additional rice.

SYNGMAN RHEE'S "ELECTION LAW" OPPOSED

The new, reactionary "National Assembly Election Law" railroaded by the Syngman Rhee clique, especially the "provisions" in the "Election Law" for suppressing the freedom of speech and the press are meeting with strong opposition from journalists and people of all social strata in South Korea.

The voices of the people in South Korea demanding the Syngman Rhee clique to cancel the "provisions" are growing and widespreading.

According to a dispatch of the South Korean news agency *Haptong Tongshin* from Seoul, on January 11, journalists in Seoul called a meeting in opposition to the "provisions" aimed at suppressing the freedom of speech and the press and demanded nullification of the provisions. And it is further reported that journalists in other cities, Taegu, Pusan, Taejun, Junjoo and Kwangjoo will follow the suit of the journalists of Seoul in calling meetings to denounce the outrageous measures of the Syngman Rhee clique.

Dispatches of foreign news agencies from Pusan reported that on January 21 the "Choonchoo Hwai," an organization of journalists and men of culture in Pusan, sponsored a meeting of journalists of South Kyungsang Province, and made resolutions to continue their fight until the "provisions" are cancelled.

FASCIST OPPRESSION IN SOUTH KOREA

According to the reports of the South Korean news agency *Haptong Tongshin* a total of 10,959 South Koreans were arrested and detained by the Syngman Rhee police and army in their roundups from December, 1, 1957 to January 10, 1958. Every day an average of 274 persons were arrested on the the charge of every description of "crime."

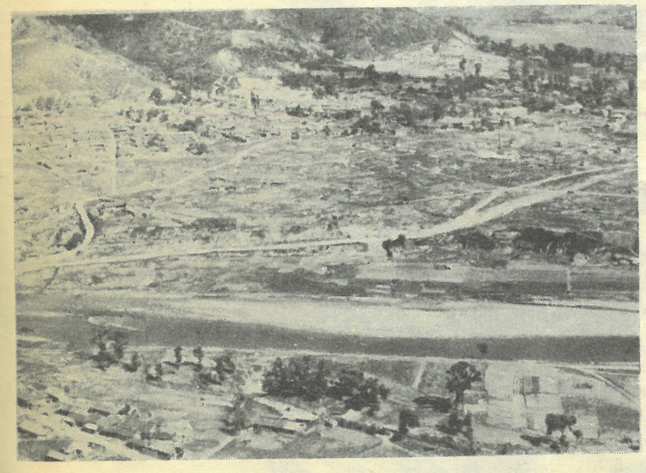
Many arrests, the Haptong Tongshin reported, were made without warrants, and 2,800 cases were put on "summary trial."

KANGGYE

Photo by Jun Chang Bok

In rebuilding the war-ravaged city of Kanggye a rapid progress has been made in a short space of time after the war, and it has come to assume a new aspect of modern city.

Main street of the city under construction



General view of the city damaged in the war time

The State Kanggye Department Store

Apartment houses erected on the ruin